

## Merrimack Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2012

Town Hall Meeting Room

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

<b>Members</b>	Laura Jaynes	Lorraine Lessard
<b>Present:</b>	Chris Christensen	Tom Thornton
	Jackie Flood	Phil Straight
	Lynne Wenz	Don Nevers
	Sherry Kalish	

**New Business:** The March minutes were approved as amended to read that Janet Cormier made motion with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Thornton. Unanimously passed, motion by Chris Christensen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Thornton.

Also amended that Jackie Flood spoke of Watson Park Funding under updates.

### Director's Report:

- a) Naticook Day Camp: Registrations are increasing. Interviews for waterfront job openings will be starting in mid-May. There is a need for a waterfront director as well as lifeguards. Check the website for Summer Programs.
- b) Summer Concert series: These are ready to go with bookings from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 31. This schedule is on the Town Website.
  - o One Tuesday night concert on July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7-9:00 pm
  - o One Thursday night concert on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> from 7-9:00 pm featuring the 39<sup>th</sup> Army Band
  - o All other concerts will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8:00 pm
- c) Skateboard Park: Opened on April 20th. See website for park hours.
- d) O'Gara Tennis Courts: No report at this time. Will have an update at the June Meeting.
- e) Community Garden: John Lastowska is working with MVD to improve water access for the gardeners. He will be taking a plan to the Town Council for review and possible acceptance. If all goes well, water will be available at 3 points along the perimeter of the garden so people won't need to carry the water across the road.
- f) Park Signs for Twin Bridges Park: This donation, made by the Merrimack Rotary Club, was approved by the committee and by the Town Council at a May meetings.
- g) Earth Day: was held at Twin Bridges and Wasserman Parks thanks to several Girl Scout troops.
- h) Weston Park: this project is near completion. There is a canoe access on the non-park side of the river.

### Old Business

- 1. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Wasserman Park was another huge success. Thanks to the Merrimack Friends and Families for their sponsorship.
- 2. **WATSON PARK FUND a review: copied from the March, 2012 director's report**
  - \*Thanks to Sherry for providing all of this information. She consistently stays involved with support for these subcommittees and the Town Manager.
  - a. Paul Micali reported the account has \$1,979. Of that amount \$638.92 is set aside for picnic tables and \$122.45 is for grills. Leaving an available balance of \$1,218. Currently the porta potty is costing \$105 per month. Paul also has three donations totaling \$302.26 that need to be accepted by the Town Council.

*Dog Subcommittee--This subcommittee was broken into 3 groups--fund raising, operations, and rules and regulation. The fundraising group made plans to fundraise at the Rotary Rabies Clinic on*

*4/14, hold a raffle for 6 months' supply of dog food, and sell homemade dog biscuits and dog toys. The rules: the group were reviewing the emails that Sherry received from dog park/parks and recreation groups across the county to establish commonality with the rules for the park. The operations group is in the process of researching the amount of fencing that needs to be purchased, the cost per standard and crossbar that will be required and the best ground cover medium for the park.*

*Pavilion Subcommittee--There are (5) members of this subcommittee. To date, the Rotary has raised \$10,000 for the structure; they will also incorporate a share of the grant money that had been received by the town for the Watson Park upgrades. They anticipate that the pavilion will be approximately 900 sq. ft. and expect the foundation to be poured by summer. At this time, the School Dept. did not want to make a commitment for the use of the pavilion because they also had the structure at Grater Woods available for their use.*

- b. Dog Park Subcommittee: Chair Lynne Wenz reported that it is often difficult to get a full group together. After considerable discussion, it will be necessary for this subcommittee to set goals, timelines, and pricing in writing to present to the full P & R committee so that we can then go to the Town Council to support any Grant expenditures. This advice was given to Sherry Kalish by Town Manager Eileen Cabanel.
- c. Pavilion Subcommittee: Phil Straight reported that the subcommittee is trying to make the final decision on the design. Phil would like to complete this project during this summer. He is also having trouble getting the group together. He then asked the full committee for a letter of support the Town Council to distribute the Watson Park Grant monies as follows:
  - 1. Pavilion: \$10,000
  - 2. Dog Park: \$6,500
  - 3. \$3,500 for other

Phil then presented a draft letter and made the motion to write a more detailed letter of his request to the Town Council. This motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Christensen. The motion passed 9:0:0. Chair Laura Jaynes will draft a letter.

- 3. Wasserman Park Revenue Ideas- tabled.

### **Updates**

**Seniors Club:** Lorraine is doing a great job organizing the many varied outings for the Seniors. She is pleased to announce that all activities are posted on the Town's Website. Some upcoming highlights include:

- May 9<sup>th</sup> – a Trip to Foxwoods
- June 2 – Mother/Father dinner
- June 28<sup>th</sup> – Newport Playhouse
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Tall Ships
- July 29<sup>th</sup> –Cape Cod Canal for a Jazz Cruise

Other events being planned include a July Western Theme Party and the annual October Fall Fair. The Senior meetings are held every Monday from 1:00 – 2:30 pm @John O'Leary Community Center.

**MYA Representative:** Welcome to new MYA Rep. Don Nevers who has stepped up to replace Tim Kachmar.

Don reported that all fields are up and running with a very early start due to the weather. He commended DPW Adam Jacobs on doing a great job on field maintenance i.e. Veterans Park. All sports have begun including: baseball, girls softball, LAX, soccer, Babe Ruth, etc.

**Town Council:** Member Jackie Flood spoke of the upcoming community Yard Sale at Watson Park on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. After some discussion, the committee approved that tables should pay \$15 ahead of time or \$20 the day of. If members could volunteer that day for set-up, etc. it would be greatly appreciated.

**High School Rep:** Holly Lewis has sent in her application. Approval by Town Council will be forthcoming. Holly was not present at this meeting.

Comments from the Public: Mrs. Watson spoke of her ideas for Dog Park.

This meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm with a motion by Chris and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom.

The next meeting will be held on June 20, 2012 @ 7:00 pm at the Town Hall Meeting Room.