

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 05.21.14
7:00 Town Hall Memorial Conference Room

Attendees: Chris Christensen, Laura Jaynes, Shannon Barnes (7:09pm arrival), Christine Lavoie, Dan Ricker, Michelle Walters-Byrne – MYA Representative and Michelle Cushman
Parks and Recreation Director: Matt Casparius

Absent:

Excused Absent: Jackie Flood, Dan Dwyer and Melanie Lesmerises

Start time: 7:03pm

1 – Open Meeting/Introduction

- Chris Christensen, on behalf of Jackie Flood, reminded everyone of the Annual Yard Sale on 06.21 and volunteers are still needed

2 – Approval of April 16, 2014 Meeting minutes

- Laura Jaynes made the motion to accept the April Meeting Minutes
- Dan Ricker 2nd the motion
- 6-0-0 to accept minutes

3 – New Business

- a. Girl Scouts Silver Garden Project was a request for a fruit and vegetable table at Wasserman Park
 - Everything would be grown and served at Wasserman Park
 - Girl Scouts think about \$200 is needed for this project and would done with a fundraiser
 - Girl Scouts are looking for approval from the Parks and Rec Committee to continue with this project
 - Christine Lavoie made the motion for approval of the Girl Scouts Garden Project
 - Dan Ricker 2nd the motion
 - 7-0-0 to accept motion
- b. Dog Park Update
 - Matt Casparius stated the Dog Park Sub Committee is not dissolved because the group still has outstanding items to complete with fundraising and rules
 - Christine Lavoie explained to everyone the fundraising item called Bark For Your Park that is sponsored by Petssafe.net is currently going on
 - This is a contest where people go on the website Petssafe.net and vote for Merrimack, NH to win \$100,000 for a dog park
 - Vote every day once per email account
 - Garry Murphy discussed another fund raising idea of a campaign to the local corporate businesses and ask for a major donation as well as a mailing in town

- A formal packet needs to be created to present to the businesses and therefore the group is asking for \$1500 from the money already raised to cover the cost. There is about \$8000 available that has already been raised by the Dog Park Sub Committee
 - Laura Jaynes made the motion to approve the Dog Park Sub Committee to go to the Town Council and ask for the \$1500 to move forward with the marketing/fundraising needed
 - Christine Lavoie 2nd the motion
 - 7-0-0 to accept motion
- c. Lion's Club Proposal
- Laura Jaynes will attend the June meeting to sell scarecrows for Diabetes

4 – Old Business - Matt Casparius

- a. By-Law Review Update - Shannon Barnes and Laura Jaynes
- Shannon Barnes went through the items that were needed to be updated and attached are the amended By-Laws
 - Michelle Cushman made the motion to accept By-Laws as amended and forward to the Town Council for approval
 - Shannon Barnes 2nd the motion
 - 7-0-0 to accept motion
- b. Park To Do List
- Matt Casparius discussed the items that have been completed on the Park To Do List for Wasserman Park since April. Items that have been fixed included:
 - Water leaks for roofs at the Day Camp Office and the Arts and Crafts building, retaining wall, new gates at both entrances, deck, cabins swept and camp beds will be removed
 - MYA building and 2 cabins have been power washed and painted thanks to volunteers
 - Septic system have not been pumped in about 4 years and will need to be pumped
 - Summer Maintenance Projects start soon
 - Forestry Project has started. Logging hoping to be completed by 06.10.14
 - New logo and banner is hanging on Wasserman Park sign

5 – Director's - Matt Casparius

- a. Report on the Easter Egg Hunt and NYC Bus Trips
- Easter Egg Hunt was a success and there was an article in the Merrimack Journal
 - NYC Bus Trip had 45 people
- b. Update on Camp Registration Numbers
- Summer camp numbers are looking good
- c. High School Senior Service Day Update
- This event was a success

- d. Adopt a Park Program Discussion
 - Matt Casparius created a gift catalogue on how to donate
- e. Review of Town Council Retreat – Discussion on future of Wasserman Park
 - Matt Casparius wrote an 8 page overview on Wasserman Park for the Town Council to review during their retreat
- f. Summer Camp opens on 06.23.14 at Wasserman Park
- g. Summer Concert series start on 06.25.14 at Abbie Griffin Park at 6:30pm
- h. Accreditation is in 2 stages/visits
 - First visit is in June
 - Second visit should be in July

6 – Sub-Committee Updates

- a. Senior Citizens Club – need representative
- b. MYA - Michelle Walters-Byrne for Melanie Lesmerises
 - Elections were held in April
 - Michelle Walters-Byrne is President
 - Brian Harris is Vice President
 - Down 2 members and still need a Treasurer and a Member At Large
 - Fields are looking good
 - Help is needed at Wasserman Park for rope line lights and some cleanup work
- c. Town Council - Dan Dwyer was absent
- d. School Board - Shannon Barnes
 - Reassignments took place
 - Graduation is 06.14.14
 - Matt Fairbanks, VP of the Greater Woods Association asked about disk golf and Shannon Barnes referred him to Matt Casparius
- e. High School Representative - Paul Davidson was absent

7 – Future meeting dates

- a. Tuesday, June 17, 2014
- b. July meeting is cancelled
- c. August meeting needs to be planned

8 – Comments from the Public was nothing

9 – Comments from the Committee

- Dan Ricker also echoed success of the Easter Egg Hunt but asked to look into age appropriate candy going forward

10 – Adjourn at 8:26pm

- Shannon Barnes made the motion to adjourn
- Laura Jaynes 2nd the motion
- 7-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Cushman