

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 16th, 2022
Town Hall, Matthew Thornton Meeting Room
7:00pm

Attendees: Tracy McGraw – Chair, Christine Lavoie – Vice Chair, David Shaw- member, Naomi Halter – School Board, Phil Przybyszewski – member, Lon Woods – Town Council, John Calabro - MYA,

Parks and Recreation Staff: Matt Casparius, Director

Excused: Michelle Creswell, Laura Jaynes, Cameron Gaumont, Maureen Hall, Julie Poole

Public: NONE

Start time: 7:15pm

Open Meeting/Introduction

Approval of minutes from October 19th, 2022

- Phil moved to accept October Minutes; Christine seconded; Motion passed (4-0-2)

New Business: Matt Casparius

- Decision on December Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
 - no meeting December; Next meeting will tentatively be the 3rd Wednesday of January, 2023
- Parks & Recreation Operating Budget for FY2023 – 2024
 - community events, recreation revolving fund – sizeable changes
 - Convinced Town Council to increase wages - \$4 / hour increase, primarily affects camp; park attendants rates go up;
 - Infrastructure – Wassermann park road repairs – this was later taken off the Town Council list of infrastructure projects for the time being
 - Phil asked about Alcohol at events/rental of facilities – 2 fees - rental fee for building, must obtain liability insurance coverage, which is purchased from town carrier (typically \$75), which covers the town
 - town does not have liquor liability insurance;
 - if alcohol service at event, must hire bar tender/caterer – must give Parks/Recs and Town Council liquor policy
 - revenue from events/rentals is not included in budget
 - stays in separate revolving fund
 - at a minimum, fees from rentals attempt to cover heat/electricity, but not able to do that yet as utilities have gone up in cost
 - OTHER PROGRAM
 - Addresses Admin costs for Parks/Recs department, including salary allocation of over \$59k; human resources, payroll (this is money that town recoups from Parks & Recs)

- All programs that are mainstay programs that run every year – which are larger in capacity – is used to pay 59k salary recoup
- Salary recoupment of 95% comes from camps/Naticook day camp, trek camp, 1 week theater camp
- 5% remainder recouped from other programs
- Budget reflects new wages already approved
- Theater Camp - Written into Wassermann Park property donation – requires that 1 time per year, a production must be done/play; public performance
- After school program – concern is that an after-school program might take business away from other after school programs in town;
 - most others are at capacity;
 - Thornton's Ferry Elementary after-school program start only for now
- For the after-school program, the Adult to child ratio is required to be at least 1:15, but is currently budgeted for 1:8
- Wilderness medical training course – 16-day course, which always sells out
 - run it several times per year

Old Business:

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park - Christine Lavoie
 - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$1,693.59
 - Looking for volunteers for fundraising events you can reach out to “friendsofthemerrimackdogpark” on Facebook or Matt Casparius
 - Donations for baggies for dog waste and garbage are always welcome

Director's Report: Matt Casparius

- Report on 30th Annual Halloween Party
 - 800 people; cars parked up/down Naticook road; stationed around grass, baseball fields
- Upcoming Special Events
 - Turkey Scavenger Hunt - Saturday, Nov 19th.
 - turkey cutouts placed around town
 - every envelope starts at different location;
 - solve riddles;
 - first 3 families that come back get 18 lb turkey;
 - XFINITY sponsorship, funding turkeys, and providing turkeys for low income community;
 - register by friday
 - 29th Annual Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting - Saturday, Dec 4 – theme holiday movies;
 - 14 floats at the moment;
 - starts at Tractor Supply;
 - register on website to enter float; no cost;
 - Tree lighting – 3:45pm,
 - Performances from marching band
 - 3rd Annual Southern NH Tour of Lights – register by 12/5;
 - lights up by 12/9;
 - stay up until 12/25 - 26 towns participating;

- create master list by towns;
- prize raffle of local favorite restaurant;
- Murder Mystery Dinner - Saturday, Feb 11th – adult community center;
 - hire company out of Boston;
 - catered buffet dinner from Celebrations catering;
 - cash bar;
 - \$58/person;
 - prices go up in mid-January; so far, sold 1/3 of tickets

Organization Reports:

- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall – not present
- MYA – John Calabro, president –starting winter programs, basketball, wrestling, various camps; turned in budget; merrimackyouthassociation.com
-
- School Representative – Camryn Gaumont – not present
- Town Council – Lon Woods
- School Board – Naomi Halter
 - No school from 11/23 – Sunday; ½ day 11/22;
 - No school 11/23 – 1/2/23

Comments from the Public: none

Comments from the Committee: none

Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, January 18th

Adjourn at 8:09

- Phil moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm
- Christine 2nd the motion
- 6-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy McGraw, Chair