**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

**Town Hall, Memorial Meeting Room**

**7:00pm**

**Attendees:** Tracy McGraw, Phil Przybyszewski, David Shaw**,** Naomi Halter – School Board Representative, Camryn Gaumont – Student Representative, Rick Greenier – MYA and Michelle Creswell

**Parks and Recreation Staff:** Matt Casparius, Director

**Absent:** none

**Excused:** Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Julie Poole, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Lon Woods - Town Council, Jonathan Barkley – Alternate MYA and Laurie Rothhaus – Alternate School Board Representative

**Public:** Melody Roe, Girl Scout Troop 13912

**Start time:** 7:00pm

**Open Meeting/Introductions**

**New Business:**

* Project Proposal - Melody Roe, Girl Scout Troop 13912 – Story Walk at Veterans Park
	+ Proposed location at west entrance by the playground
	+ As you walk in that area you can stop at posts and read the piece of a children’s book
	+ Public Library will help to donate the books that will be rotated out
	+ Proposed fundraising for local businesses to sponsor a post ($60) will also get a plaque of business name on the post
	+ Phil Przybyszewski said that Merrimack Lion’s Club will sponsor a post
	+ Phil Przybyszewski motioned to except the project proposal and to move forward to present to the Town Council
	+ Rick Greenier 2nd the motion
	+ 7-0-0 motion passed
	+ See attached presentation for more detail

**Approval of minutes from November 16th, 2022**

* Phil Przybyszewski made the motion to accept the November meeting minutes
* Naomi Halter 2nd the motion
* 4-0-3 motion passed (abstained: Camryn Gaumont, Rick Greenier and Michelle Creswell)

**Old Business:**

* Update from Merrimack Dog Park - Tracy McGraw
	+ Dog Park Fund Balance – $1,693.59
	+ New mulch and berm donations and thank you for both
	+ 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

* Parks & Recreation Budget Presentation to Town Council on Jan 19th at 6:30pm
	+ Budget Change: Wasserman Park Road Project was cut
	+ Budget does not change taxpayer cost
	+ Hire of new position and will become Director of Summer and After School Programs
* Update on Watson Park Ice Skating Rink
	+ Closed and hasn’t been able to open due to the weather
	+ Signs are up to post closed/open status
* Kid’s Cove had tree damage due to weather in December and working with the insurance company
* Summer Camp Registration Update
	+ Came registration is open and in first day 800 registrations came in
	+ Discount for cost of camp if you sign up before Feb 15th save $10 a week
* Summer Hiring Update
	+ Most head staff positions filled
	+ 16-year-old – Jr Councilor
	+ 15-year-old – Councilor in Training Program is back and will be 3 weeks (3 sessions will be held during the summer)
	+ 18-year-old – Sr Councilor
* Upcoming Special Events
	+ Murder Mystery Dinner - Saturday, Feb 11th at John O’Leary Senior Center and $58 per ticket
	+ 31st Annual Winter Carnival – Saturday, Feb 25th

**Organization Reports:**

* Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall absent
* MYA - Rick Greenier
	+ Basketball and wresting are currently in session
	+ Lacrosse and softball registrations are open
	+ Rick Greenier thanked Merrimack Public Works and Merrimack School District for all they do for MYA
	+ merrimackyouthassociation.com
* Student Representative – Camryn Gaumont
	+ Students are enjoying the sporting events
* Town Council – Lon Woods absent
* School Board – Naomi Halter
	+ Next school vacation is February 27th – March 3rd

**Comments from the Public:** none

**Comments from the Committee:** none

**Future Meeting Dates**

* Wednesday, February 15th
* Wednesday, March 15th

**Adjourn at 7:36pm**

* Rick Greenier made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm
* Phil Przybyszewski 2nd the motion
* 7-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Creswell