

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 04.17.19
Matthew Thornton Meeting Room
7:00pm

Attendees: Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Corey Davenport, Rick Greenier – MYA, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Peter Albert - Town Council, Shannon Barnes – School Board Representative, Abbie Cote – Student Representative and Michelle Creswell

Parks and Recreation Staff: Matt Casparius, Director

Absent:

Excused: Hillary Baird and Julie Poole

Public:

Start time: 7:02pm

- 1 Open Meeting/Introduction
- 2 Approval of minutes from March 20th 2019
 - Shannon Barnes made the motion to accept the March meeting minutes
 - Peter Albert 2nd the motion to accept the March meeting minutes
 - 7-0-2 (abstained – Laura Jaynes and Shannon Barnes)
- 3 Old Business
 - Update from Merrimack Dog Park - Christine Lavoie
 - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$2,431.59 (as of 03.31.19)
 - Request for funding for \$999 for bark mulch in case fund raising didn't cover the cost
 - Maureen Hall made the motion to release the \$999 in funds to cover the cost of the mulch
 - Rick Greenier 2nd the motion
 - 9-0-0 motion passed
 - Peter Albert asked if there was an area to have communications about the dog park
 - Shannon Barnes mentioned the Conservation Committee could help with the design
 - Peter Albert mentioned this could be a good Eagle or Girl Scout project
 - Ideas for future improvements
 - More dog equipment
 - Water line
 - Solar lights
 - Updated results on Parks & Recreation Committee Survey - Matt Casparius
 - Many more results came in and athletic fields and youth sports are high on the list
 - Peter Albert suggested a fitness loop as an idea
 - Corey Davenport suggested a Spartan Race type of event for a special event as an idea
 - Rick Greenier suggested a Spartan Race to also include the 11, 12 and 13 year old age groups
 - Laura Jaynes suggested the Color Run Race again

4 Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- Report on Annual Budget / Waterfront Improvement Project
 - Laura Jaynes commented that the Town Council asked for our recommendations for the waterfront
 - Peter Albert recommended that this committee come up with a list for when the Town Council has their retreat so they can discuss new ideas
 - Budget of \$95,000 passed
 - Docks are 28 years old and are repaired 4-5 times a season and would cost approximately \$42,000 to replace and this will stay in the future budgets request
- Report on Program Coordinator hiring process
 - 92 applications and interviews are ongoing with 10 candidates
- Report on the Easter Egg Hunt
 - 850 kids in attendance
 - 10,000 Easter eggs
 - \$500 donation from Santander Bank
 - Free picture with Easter Bunny
- Upcoming Special Events
 - 2nd Annual Earth Day Community Clean Up Day Saturday, April 20th
 - 12 groups and 90 volunteers signed up
 - Event could be postponed due to the weather
- Summer Camp Update
 - Enrollment Update – 800 kids registered so far
 - Staffing Update – almost completely filled with just a few positions open
- Miscellaneous Updates
 - Watson Park– new water line for the ice skating rink was installed recently
 - Purchase of the commercial nets for the bids for Beach volleyball went out
 - Fields opened last Friday with DPW's restriction of no cleats due to fields are still too wet except for Reed's Ferry Field is still closed due to being too wet

5 Organization Reports

- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall – see attachment for all future events and dates
 - May 8th - sign up for Foxwoods Trip
- MYA - Rick Greenier
 - Member at Large and Secretary positions are open
 - 300 kids in baseball
 - 100 kids in softball
 - 650 kids in spring soccer
 - 160 kids in lacrosse registration
 - Football and cheerleading are ready for registration
 - No baseball parade this year
 - merrimackyouth.org for any info
- Town Council – Peter Albert
 - Need list of goals
 - Elections were held with a recount

- Budgets have been passed
- School Board – Shannon Barnes
 - Shannon Barnes will be the permanent representative for this committee
 - Turf field article failed the budget and will regroup
 - Skate Park is now open and asked about the suggestion of putting cameras at the park and this will be looked into
- School Representative – Abbie Cote
 - June 8th is graduation
 - Prom is May 10th
 - School break is week April 22nd

6 Comments from the Public – was none

7 Comments from the Committee – was none

8 Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, May 15th 2019
- Wednesday, June 19th 2019

9 Adjourn at 7:45pm

- Maureen Hall made the motion to adjourn at 7:45pm
- Shannon Barnes 2nd the motion
- 9-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Creswell