

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Town Hall, Matthew Thornton Meeting Room
7:00pm

Attendees: Tracy McGraw, Laura Jaynes, David Shaw, Naomi Halter – School Board Representative, Mackenzie Murphy – Town Council, Rick Greenier – MYA, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, and Michelle Creswell

Parks and Recreation Staff: Matt Casparius, Director

Absent: none

Excused: Christine Lavoie, Phil Przybyszewski, Julie Poole, TBD – Student Representative, Jonathan Barkley – Alternate MYA and Laurie Rothhaus – Alternate School Board Representative

Public: Sean Smith and Fred Mackey

Start time: 7:05pm

Open Meeting/Introductions

Approval of minutes from March 15, 2023

- Rick Greenier made the motion to accept the March meeting minutes
- David Shaw 2nd the motion
- 5-0-3 motion passed (abstained: Laura Jaynes, Mackenzie Murphy and Michelle Creswell)

New Business:

- Proposal to build a Mountain Bike Trail at Wasserman Park - Sean Smith and Fred Mackey
 - Natural trail with small brush removal
 - Dirt/natural ground foundation without any major tree cutting
 - Trail would be welcome for anyone to use
 - No lighting
 - No cost to the town to be created
 - Rick Greenier made the motion to accept the Mountain Bike Trail at Wasserman Park Project and for it to go before the Town Council
 - Laura Jaynes 2nd the motion to accept the Mountain Bike Trail at Wasserman Park Project and for it to go before the Town Council
 - 8-0-0 motion passed
- Review of Chapter 142 - Parks & Recreation Ordinances - Matt Casparius
 - Ordinances were handed out to the committee to review and will be discussed during the June meeting

Old Business:

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park - Tracy McGraw
 - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$1,693.59
 - Request for funding for Playground Chips
 - Dept of Public Works will be contacted for free wooden shredded chips and then purchasing the playground chips as second option
 - Thank you to the Dept of Public Works helped secure the shed
 - Reminder to pet owners to clean up dog's waste
 - 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
- Skateboard Park Discussion and review of potential sites - Matt Casparius

- Timeline is 2 years to determine location of skateboard park and 3 proposed locations are:
 - Adjacent to Bishop Field closer to the school – MYA does use this area for practices
 - Wasserman Park where the swimming pool was located
 - Gibson Sports Complex (near Martel's Softball Field)
 - Matt Casparius will present all 3 options to Town Council
 - Laura Jaynes recommended the option of Adjacent to Bishop Field closer to the school
 - Rick Greenier 2nd for the option of Adjacent to Bishop Field closer to the school
 - 8-0-0 motion passed

Director's Report: Matt Casparius

- After School Program
 - Licenses from the state are in place for fall programs
- Community Garden Update
 - Opened for the season and almost at full capacity
- Summer Camp Update
 - Opens on June 21st and almost at overall full capacity with 1275 registrations
- Upcoming Special Events
 - Summer Concerts in the Park Wednesdays, June 21st – August 16th
 - 4th Of July Festivities Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, July 4th
 - Movies in the Park
 - Saturday, July 29th Top Gun Maverick
 - Saturday, August 26th Minions: Rise of Gru
 - Saturday, September 30th Puss In Boots: The Last Wish
- Miscellaneous Updates
 - n/a

Organization Reports:

- MYA - Rick Greenier
 - Baseball, softball and lacrosse are in session
 - Football and cheerleading signs ups are open
 - Thanks to DPW for support, and to Getinge and Elbit for using their fields
 - merrimackyouthassociation.com
- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall
 - 50th year celebration is currently being planned
- School Board – Naomi Halter
 - High School Graduation is June 10th
 - Last day of school is June 20th
 - June 22nd is 2nd Annual Goals Meeting
- Student Representative – not present but Matt Casparius represented
 - Matthew Brown is interested in joining the Committee
- Town Council – Mackenzie Murphy
 - Town Council held reorganization session
 - Retreat meeting will be on June 21st
 - Donation received from the Lion's Club for the Parks and Recreation Committee

Comments from the Public: none

Comments from the Committee: none

Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, June 21st
- No meeting in July
- Wednesday, August 16th

Adjourn at 8:12pm

- Rick Greenier made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm
- Maureen Hall 2nd the motion
- 8-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Creswell