

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 08.18.21
Matthew Thornton Meeting Room
7:00pm

Attendees: Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Tracy McGraw, David Shaw, Jamie Devlin, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Rick Greenier – MYA, Lon Woods - Town Council and Michelle Creswell
Parks and Recreation Staff: Matt Casparius, Director

Absent: none

Excused: Julie Poole, Laurie Rothhaus – School Board Representative, Shannon Barnes – Alternate School Board Representative, Jonathan Barkley – Alternate MYA and TBD – Student Representative

Public: none

Start time: 7:01pm

1 Open Meeting/Introduction

2 Approval of minutes from:

- June 16th, 2021
 - David Shaw made the motion to accept the June meeting minutes
 - Tracy McGraw 2nd the motion
 - 6-0-3 motion passed (Lon Woods, Christine Lavoie and Rick Greenier abstained)

3 Old Business - Christine Lavoie

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park
 - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$763.59
 - 15 Melanson CPA employees volunteered their time and looks great
 - Tracy McGraw stated that Mosquito Joe will have another treatment scheduled for Sunday, August 22nd
 - Please don't leave water jugs behind when you leave as there is water at the park now
 - Donations for baggies for dog waste is always welcome

4 New Business - Matt Casparius

- 2021 – 2022 Goal Setting Discussion - For next year's budget (FY 22 – 23) which means funding available July 1, 2022 – next summer
 - Roof Replacement on Cabins 12, 3/4 and Boathouse with an initial estimate of \$15,800
 - Cabin 9/10 started leaking this year
 - Initially 9/10 was going to be torn down, but it's not now so we need to fix the roof so this will get revised to \$22,300 although may have to push one of these out a year
 - MYA has requested irrigation to the Football practice Field at Wasserman Park.
 - \$62,000 is the starting estimate and Matt Casparius meet with a contractor to get a formal estimate in early September
- FY 2023 – 2024

- Because of the coming replacement of our current docks at Wasserman Park, we are going to be able to utilize part of one of our docks to create a fishing dock outside of the swim area
- Tentative placeholder of \$750,000 for Athletic Field Development to build 2 fields at Greenfield Farms on Pearson Road
 - This still needs to be brought to Town Council
- FY 2024 – 2025
 - Replacement of Lights at Martel Field – estimated cost of \$265,000 and are 20 years old
 - Part of the issue is that the existing lights are 20 feet shorter than they should be which creates a hazardous playing condition
 - New lights would be 60 feet and modern lighting would provide better coverage and visibility and reduce ambient light off the field
- FY 2025 – 2026
 - Earmark of \$100,000 to refinish the 2500 square feet of unfinished space basement of the Function Hall
 - Create 4 to 5 good sized meeting rooms
- Additional items to consider adding to the budget:
 - Paving the Wasserman Park Roadway that is slowly deteriorating
 - Skateboard Park and eventually replacing the equipment
 - Currently on a year-to-year agreement with the School District
 - Discussions were held a few years ago about potential locations and the best option at the time was at near Bishop Field adjacent to the field
 - Wooden substructure that could not be disassembled and reassembled and to build a new park with modern equipment the estimate is \$85,000 - \$100,000
 - Lighting at the Dog Park so that the park could be used in the evening hours – estimate TBD
 - Smaller parking lot above the basketball court specifically for events and activities going on in the Function Hall or the fields – estimate TBD
 - Beach renovation project deals with the left side of the beach to make it more accessible – estimate TBD
 - We have a 5-year window with the State with our existing permits before we have to start the process all over again
- Annual Park Reviews
 - Assignments to review parks for September Meeting possibly add to the Capital Improvement Project List
 - Abbie Griffin Park - Maureen Hall
 - Bishop Field - Tracy McGraw
 - Depot Street Boat Ramp - Christine Lavoie
 - Gibson Memorial Complex (Martel & Gibson Fields) - Lon Woods
 - O’Gara Drive Recreation Area - Rick Greenier
 - Reeds Ferry Fields - Rick Greenier
 - Twardosky Fields - Jamie Devlin
 - Twin Bridge Park - Christine Lavoie
 - Veterans Park - Laura Jaynes
 - Wasserman Park (can be multiple people) - Matt Casparius

- Watson Park - David Shaw
- Weston Park - Laura Jaynes

5 Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- Wasserman Park Beach Project Update
 - Last winter we put the beach project out to bid and the lowest bidder was almost double what are estimates were
 - Money left over from last year's fiscal budget that can go to this getting this project complete
- 2021 Summer Camp Update
 - Last day of camp will be Friday, August 20th
 - Biggest challenges this summer was hiring staff - lifeguard pay rate increased from \$11.42 hour to \$15 an hour
 - 3 buildings have leaking roofs
 - 2 crushed septic system lines
 - Ice machine broke last week
 - No cases of COVID so far
 - About 27 registrations short (or about \$6500) from estimated count months ago
- Report on Recent Community Special Events
 - Summer Concerts in the Park
 - Concerts went well and averaged about 140 people a week
 - Summer Movies in the Park
 - Currently average about 60 people
 - Police Dept asked do a 5th concert for National Night Out and will sponsor it
 - Friday, August 27th 7:30 pm at Wasserman Park - Ferris Bueller's Day Off
 - Friday, September 17th 7:30 pm at Wasserman Park - Raiders of the Lost Arc
- Upcoming Community Events
 - 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony - Saturday, September 11th 8:30am at Abbie Griffin Park – program TBD and looking for a singer and bag piper
 - Angel of Hope Memorial Dedication Ceremony - Saturday, September 25th 10:30am – 2:00 pm at Abbie Griffin Park - Angel of Hope Memorial for families who have lost an infant at birth
 - Merrimack 275th Celebration (gift of a covered bridge – for first original road in Merrimack with estimated cost of \$500,00 and a multiyear project)
 - Programs and events have been occurring since April and continuing all summer
 - Combine the Fall Festival with Annual Halloween Party on October 30th – location TBD
- Other Department Updates
 - None

6 Organization Reports

- School Representative – Position Currently Vacant

- We are looking for a new School Representative
- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall
 - John O'Leary building opened on July 1st
 - Texas Tenors event
 - Newport Playhouse event
 - Bingo is being offered
- MYA - Rick Greenier
 - Football - start on Sunday, August 22nd and 150 registrations
 - Soccer – will start soon and 275 registrations
 - Baseball - for fall and around 80 registrations
 - Lacrosse to offer a program called Fiddle Sticks
 - Fall softball will be offered soon
 - Basketball registration to open on 09.16
 - MYA participated in the 4th of the July Parade and thanks to Lacrosse Director Jill Mitchell for spear heading it
 - merrimackyouthassociation.com
- School Board – Laurie Rothhaus – not present
- Town Council – Lon Woods
 - Meetings resume Thursday, August 19th

7 Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

8 Adjourn at 8:24pm

- Tracy McGraw made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm
- Christine Lavoie 2nd the motion
- 9-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Creswell