

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Town Hall, Matthew Thornton Meeting Room

7:00 pm

START TIME: 7:04 pm, 9/20/2023

Open Meeting / Introductions

ATTENDEES: Matthew Casparius – Director, MacKenzie Murphy – Town Council, Tracy McGraw – Chairperson, Naomi Halter – School Board, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Matthew Brown – Student Representative, Rick Greenier – MYA, Phil Przybyszewski – Member, Heather Fairbanks – Member, Josh Toms – Member

EXCUSED: Julie Poole, Christine Lavoie, Michelle Creswell, Laura Jaynes

PUBLIC: Angela Brown

Approval of minutes from August 16, 2023 – Phil moved, Matthew second: vote 8-0-1, with one correction that Naomi was not present for the prior meeting

New Business

- Review draft proposal for Summer Camp refund & cancellation policy
 - Registration fee - \$50 non-refundable/non-transferable – increase from \$25
 - Payment due 30 days prior to start of registered session
 - To withdraw, must notify PR 30 days prior to start of session
 - Cancellation more than 30 days = \$50 non-refundable;
 - Cancellation for medical reasons less than 30 days = with medical proof = \$50 still non-refundable – note must be given soon after missed date
 - Cancellation less than 30 days otherwise – keep \$50, then refund 50% of balance paid
 - Delete that if program cancelled for low enrollment, they get full refund – PROPOSE to delete this from current rules

Old Business

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park
 - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$1,693.50
 - Vote to approve \$999 for wood chips; playground – Josh moved, Rick second: vote: 9-0-0

Director's Report

- Naticook After School Program – 1st day, 24 kids; kept it at 24 because lost 1 staff member; some movement; now have 22 kids with combo of days – 16-19 per day; would like to get up to 24 per day
 - Going well
 - School great to work with
 - Flyers went home
 - Promoting on Facebook, newsletter
- Upcoming Special Events
 - Movies in the Park Saturday, September 30th 6:30 pm - Puss N Boots: The Last Wish
 - Naticook Challenge 5K Saturday, October 14th obstacle race; 8-10 obstacles that most people can do; 85 registered so far; would like to get to 100; still looking for volunteers;
 - Annual Halloween Party Saturday, October 28th 12-3pm; recruiting businesses and community organizations; provide game, craft, facepainting and they get a space; possibly pumpkin race derby;

- Playground Updates
 - Twin Bridge Park
 - Waiting for public works for slides at Kids Kove; dealing with staffing shortages; looking at beginning of October;
- Miscellaneous Updates: still looking for part-time year-round maintenance; 25 hours per week; \$18/hour; day time; posted on town website

Organization Reports

- MYA – Rick Greenier; 1000 kids participating in fall sports; 200 football/cheerleading; 660 in soccer; 110 baseball, 50 softball; thank DPW for getting things ready; current registration open for basketball; merrimackyouthassociation.com; Elbit Systems & Getinge thanks for donation of property
- Senior Citizens Club – Maureen Hall; fall fair 10/21/23, 9-3 at John O’Leary Center; meals on wheels serving lunch 9/25/23; couples joining;
- School Board – Naomi Halter; going well; have or will be having open houses; 9/22/23 early release for staff training; no school 10/6/23 for training/workshops; 10/9/23 no school for Columbus/Indigenous peoples day;
- Matt mentioned that Camp running program for Columbus Day; \$60 for 1st child, 55 for sibling; 8-4, lunch included;
- Student Representative – Matthew Brown – homecoming is 9/30/23; volleyball had home opener on 9/13; football home opener on 9/11; band going to UNH for competition;
- Town Council – MacKenzie Murphy; TC met last week; August meeting approved funds to go to scholarship for camps for \$2500 from MFF; low-income Merrimack families; approved donation of funds from boy scouts troop 401 \$654.87 for Wassermann; 9/12/23 – finance director retired; new finance director is Adam Brittain;

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL – starting the build;

Comments from the Public

Comments from the Committee

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, October 18th – likely discussions about the budget
- Wednesday, November 15th

Adjourn – 7:47pm. Maureen moved, Matthew second: vote 9-0-0