

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 08.19.15
Merrimack Town Hall, Memorial Conference Room
7:00pm

Attendees: Chris Christensen, Julie Poole, Laura Jaynes, Jackie Flood, Christine Lavoie, Dan Ricker, Nick Kropelin, Michelle Cushman, Dan Dwyer – Town Council, Cinda Guagliumi – School Board and Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club

Parks and Recreation Director: Matt Casparius

Absent: Melissa Kowalewski, Rick Greenier – MYA

Excused:

Public: Captain Peter Albert – Merrimack Police Department

Start time: 7:00pm

1 Open Meeting/Introduction

2 Approval of minutes from June 10, 2015

- Dan Dwyer made the motion to accept the June Meeting Minutes
- Christine Lavoie 2nd the motion
- 6-0-4 motion passed

3 New Business

- Parking & Rules Enforcement at Wasserman Park
 - Waterfront & Parking Area - Chris Christensen
 - There were no direct complaints to Police Department regarding parking
 - There are a mixed style of signs at the park
 - Captain Albert discussed the following:
 - Recommended standard style on signage
 - Police Officers patrol parks on a regular basis
 - Suggestion could be to hire a parking attendant
 - There are placards for the cars to hang for parking
 - Placards are available for free at Wasserman Park at Director's office, 8:30 - 4 Monday to Friday and Town Clerk's office during business hours
 - Jackie Flood commented that either enforce fully or get a parking attendant
 - Matt Casparius commented would we make enough on parking to pay for the parking attendant because parking lot isn't completely full at all times
 - Dan Dwyer commented that Wasserman Park is a park in progress and because there aren't any former complaints we should only passive enforce the parking rules
 - Chris Christensen commented that with the possibility of the Dog Park and Disc Golf could bring more traffic and there aren't any handicap parking signs
 - Matt Casparius commented that there are 2 handicap signs
 - Zyla Picnic Area Rentals - Matt Casparius
 - Nonresidents can rent picnic area but could become a problem in the future.
- Discussion on Veterans Park Boat Ramp – Matt Casparius
 - Money in budget for maintenance for the boat ramp
 - Concern of people swimming from the boat ramp launch
 - Fishing dock is a suggestion for future discussion
- Discussion/review on proposed Dog Park Rules & Regulations
 - There are 2 sets of proposed rules to review and accept
 - Chris Christensen commented that one set is 10 rules
 - Christine Lavoie commented that one set is 18 rules and this is the proposed set of rules the Dog Park Sub Committee would like to submit for review
 - Age range rule needs to be reviewed again

- Jackie Flood asked what are the consequences of breaking the rules that will need to be reviewed again
- Suggestion to add the Merrimack Police Department's phone number to the rules
- Chris Christensen commented that the dogs needs to be spayed and neutered rule is redundant to dog can't be in heat rule
- Chris Christensen commented that the rule regarding the lights doesn't fit now because there aren't any lights at the park now
- Christine Lavoie commented that the subcommittee was looking to add rules in now that might be in effect in the future – example is lights not there now
- Chris Christensen commented on the format of the rules that maybe there should be 2 sets of rules: Do and Don't Do and by bullets, not numbered
- Chris Christensen commented that maybe there should be a map
- Laura Jaynes commented that go back and look at both sets and suggestions from the meeting and come back with new list
- Dan Dwyer commented that put all rules on that the Dog Park Committee thinks should be there to present to the Parks and Recreation Committee and then to the Town Council
- Jackie Flood asked what the things will be at the dog park – gates, apparatuses, fencing etc.
- Christine Lavoie commented that the website Merrimackdogpark.com has all information about dog park
- If someone is bite by a dog then Captain Albert said call Merrimack Police Department
 - Either the dog officer will respond if during Monday – Friday 8-4 or an officer that is on duty can respond
 - Christine Lavoie commented that there have been dog play dates going on for months and not one dog bite has occurred

4 Old Business

- Update from the Friends of the Merrimack Dog Park - Matt Casparius
 - Bark for Park Contest
 - Christine Lavoie commented that it was a town effort to win the \$25,000 and thanked everyone who participated
 - Next step is for Town Council to accept money during next meeting on 08.20.15
 - Upcoming Events/Activities
 - August 28th – 11am-11pm – Bertucci's will donate 15% of all proceeds will go to the dog park and you must show the flyer to get the credit
 - Flyer is on Facebook page – Friends of the Merrimack Dog Park or visit MerrimackDogPark.com
 - September – Saver's which is clothing by the pound donation – more to come on this event
 - September – Business Expo – possible bake sale
 - Approval of expenditures from Dog Park Fund
 - Bumper stickers and magnets were bought for the Bark for your Park Contest
 - Laura Jaynes made the motion to accept the repayment of \$137.98 the expenditures from the Dog Park Fund
 - Michelle Cushman 2nd the motion
 - 10-0-0 motion passed
- Update on Disc Golf Proposal for Wasserman Park
 - Disc Golf Team wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting to give update
 - Matt Casparius said the team is getting plans together for proposed markers for visual image

5 Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- Update on Summer Programs
 - Gianne Cruz started right as camp started
 - About a \$15,000 increase in camp registrations from last year
 - Summer concert series has ended and there about 150 people for a weekly attendance
 - September 2nd at 7pm is next movie night at Abbie Griffin Park
 - Group from Fidelity Investments volunteered time to clean up at Wasserman Park
- Update on 4th of July – No major issues, event went well

- Update on Boy Scout & Girl Scout Projects
 - Ian Finkin was responsible the Navigation Project
 - Justin Calautti build boat storage rack
 - Megan Murphy completed project in Arts and Crafts building and is planning on holding open house in September (date is TBD)
- Update on Wasserman Park Improvements
 - All scheduled projects for the park have been completed
 - \$25,000 is still in budget for other projects and maintenance needed
- Fall Programs/Online Registration
 - Now available at Parks and Recreation office, Town Hall, town Library, John O’Leary Adult Community Center and online at Merrimackparksandrec.org
 - Offer online registration and Credit cards are now an option for registration
 - September 19th – Parks and Recreation will have a booth at Business Expo
 - Fall Lecture Series presented by Edward Jones
 - Social Security: Your Questions Answered on September 12th at 10am and this is free at Town Hall, Memorial Conference Room
 - College: Getting There From Here on September 24th at 7pm and this is free, at John O’Leary Adult Community Center
 - Health Care and Your Retirement on October 6th at 7pm and this is free, at John O’Leary Adult Community Center
 - Preparing Your Estate Plan on October 22nd at 1pm and this is free, at John O’Leary Adult Community Center
- Upcoming Special Events
 - September 19th – Parks and Recreation will have a booth at Business Expo
 - October 1st from 2-7pm - Blood Drive at Wasserman Park
 - October 23th 5-8pm – town’s annual Halloween Party and volunteers needed
 - December 6th – 3-6pm is Annual Holiday Parade & Christmas Tree Lighting

6 Organization Reports

- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall
 - August 12th was the Foster’s Clambake & The Bobby Darling Show
 - September 23rd – Venus De Milo Restaurant & The Beach Boys Tribute Show and is open to the public
 - October 13th – Friesians of Majesty (sign up starts August 24th)
 - October 24th – Annual Fall Fair – Senior Center
 - November – date is TBD – Foxwoods Casino
 - December 3rd – Hu Ke Lau – Hawaiian Christmas
 - December 5th – at noon - Christmas Dinner
 - December 10th – Lunch at Warren’s – White Christmas – The Musical
 - Suggestions for activities are movie night, karaoke machine and Wii Bowling
- MYA - Rick Greenier – no present
- Town Council –Dan Dwyer
 - On the agenda is accepting Dog Park Contest money
- School Board – Cinda Guagliumi
 - September 8th – first day of school

7 Comments from the Public - was nothing

8 Comments from the Committee

- Chris Christensen commented that it’s great to see the attendance of the Parks and Recreation Committee
- Chris Christensen commented that Matt Casparius has done a great job on the brochures
- Laura Jaynes commented that the Lion’s Club want to do Scarecrow Fund Raiser again and Dan Dwyer said they should contact Town Manager
- Dan Dwyer commented that the Town Council met as a group to prioritize of the work schedule and getting usable boat ramp at Merrimack River would be a project to look into
- Dan Ricker commented that at Twardosky Field he has seen drones flying around the park

- Chris Christensen commented that those should be flown at Dubrovski Patterson Park
- Christine Lavoie gave out a flyer for the upcoming events and information for the Dog Park

9 Future Meeting Dates

- 09.16.15
- 10.21.15

10 – Adjourn at 8:21pm

- Dan Dwyer made the motion to adjourn at 8:21pm
- Laura Jaynes 2nd the motion
- 10-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Cushman