

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Town Hall, Matthew Thornton Meeting Room
7:00pm

Attendees: Tracy McGraw, Phil Przybyszewski, Josh Toms, Heather Fairbanks, Rick Greenier – MYA, Matthew Brown – Student Representative, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club (arrived at 7:39 pm) and Michelle Creswell

Parks and Recreation Staff: Matt Casparius, Director

Absent: none

Excused: Laura Jaynes, David Shaw, Julie Poole, Christine Lavoie, Naomi Halter – School Board Representative, Mackenzie Murphy – Town Council, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Jonathan Barkley – Alternate MYA and Laurie Rothhaus – Alternate School Board Representative

Public: Nora Campbell, Girl Scout Troop 10731, David Campbell and Angela Brown

Start time: 7:01pm

Open Meeting/Introductions

Girl Scout Silver Award Project Proposal –Theater Improvements

- Nora Campbell, Girl Scout Troop 10731 presented proposal
- See attached deck for details and high-level project details are:
 - Cleaning up entry and dressing room areas of the theatre
 - Completion date is scheduled for 2024
 - Phil Przybyszewski invited Nora Campbell to the next Lion’s Club to review possible fundraising ideas and grant options
- Rick Greenier made the motion to accept the Girl Scout Silver Award Project Proposal –Theater Improvements and proceed to present at the next open Town Council Meeting in December
- Phil Przybyszewski 2nd the motion
- 7-0-0 motion passed
- Matt Casparius will let Nora Campbell when to attend

Approval of minutes from October 18, 2023

- Matthew Brown made the motion to accept the October meeting minutes
- Phil Przybyszewski 2nd the motion
- 6-0-1 motion passed (abstained: Michelle Creswell)

New Business:

- Discussion on whether to hold a December meeting
 - No outstanding items to complete by year end
 - Matthew Brown made the motion to skip the December Parks and Recreation Meeting
 - Josh Toms 2nd the motion
 - 7-0-0 motion passed

Old Business:

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park - Matt Casparius/Tracy McGraw
 - Request for additional funds for playground mulch
 - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$1,247.34
 - Tracy McGraw thanked Matt Casparius for his coordination and DPW for their work on spreading the mulch
 - Request to have Matt Casparius ask DPW to drop dirt off to allow dog owners to continue to fill in holes as needed
 - Heather Fairbanks made the motion to allow Matt Casparius to purchase 25 yards of playgroup mulch for dog park
 - Rick Greenier 2nd the motion
 - 7-0-0 motion passed
 - 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

Director's Report: Matt Casparius

- Budget Update – budget was just received and due back by November 30th
 - Capital Improvements
 - Pick 1 of 6 projects
 - Proposal for lifeguard positions
 - Line item for Summer Movies will be used for Summer Concerts as the concerts had more attendance this past summer
 - No additional taxpayer cost
 - Operating & Revolving Fund
 - Matt Casparius to review overall cost of miscellaneous items such as building cost for electricity
- Upcoming Special Events
 - Annual Halloween Party had around 1300 people and was a big hit
 - Holiday Happenings - Sunday, December 3rd from Common Shopping Plaza at Tractor Supply Store from 3:00 – 4:30 pm
 - Santa is confirmed
 - No cost to enter a float
 - Theme is Rock and Roll Holidays Through the Times
 - Volunteers needed from 1:15 - 3pm ET for help with float set up
- Miscellaneous Updates
 - Chapter 142 – Park and Recreation Ordinance is scheduled for 2nd reading on November 16th
 - Refund Policy will be under review

Organization Reports:

- MYA - Rick Greenier
 - Fall sports just concluded

- Registration for lacrosse, basketball and wrestling is currently open
- Thanks to the DPW for all they do to help MYA
- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall
 - Christmas Party – December 2nd
 - Any senior citizen that now lives in a Nursing Home are still a club member without having to pay
 - 50th Year Anniversary is being planned for 2024
 - Meetings are every Monday at the John O’Leary building from 12:30 – 1:30pm
- School Board – Naomi Halter – not present
- Student Representative – Matthew Brown
 - October 23rd – 31st was the SADD bake sale
 - Saturday, November 18th - Classical All State for band and chorus members
 - Saturday, November 18th Robotics Team to host the Lego League Competition at High School from 8:30am – 3pm
- Town Council – Mackenzie Murphy – not present

Comments from the Public: none

Comments from the Committee:

- Matt Casparius updated the committee regarding the proposed trail to start from Watson Park to end at Wildcat Falls.
 - Construction to take about 8 months
 - Tentative completion date is early summer
 - Rentals at Watson will not be allowed during construction
- Josh Toms attended Girl Scouts Award Ceremony – and Melody Rowe received Girl Scout Gold Award

Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, December 20th – will be cancelled
- Wednesday, January 17th – held in Memorial Conference Room

Adjourn at 8:02pm

- Maureen Hall made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm
- Josh Toms 2nd the motion
- 8-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Creswell