

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 16, 2023
Town Hall, Matthew Thornton Meeting Room
7:00pm

Attendees: Tracy McGraw, Laura Jaynes, Phil Przybyszewski, Josh Toms, Heather Fairbanks, Naomi Halter – School Board Representative, Mackenzie Murphy – Town Council, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Matthew Brown – Student Representative and Michelle Creswell

Parks and Recreation Staff: Matt Casparius, Director

Absent: none

Excused: David Shaw, Julie Poole, Christine Lavoie, Rick Greenier – MYA, Jonathan Barkley – Alternate MYA and Laurie Rothhaus – Alternate School Board Representative

Public: Angela Brown

Start time: 7:00pm

Open Meeting/Introductions

Approval of minutes from June 21, 2023

- 1 correction to update Laurie Rothhaus to Naomi Halter under School Board section of the agenda
- Phil Przybyszewski, made the motion to accept the amended June meeting minutes
- Naomi Halter 2nd the motion
- 7-0-3 motion passed (abstained: Naomi Halter, Matthew Brown and Michelle Creswell)

New Business:

- Welcome/Introduce 3 new members
 - Josh Toms, Matthew Brown and Heather Fairbanks
- Review of Chapter 142 - Parks & Recreation Ordinances for potential changes - Matt Casparius
 - See attached ordinances for updated information
 - Maureen Hall, made the motion to accept the amended ordinances
 - Phil Przybyszewski 2nd the motion
 - 9-0-1 motion passed (abstained: Mackenzie Murphy)

Old Business:

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park - Tracy McGraw
 - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$1,693.59
 - Fall Clean Up is TBD
 - Heather Fairbanks mentioned some of the dog park is overgrown and mowing would be helpful
 - Tracy McGraw asked Matt Casparius if people can bring their own week whacker to help with the grass said yes that is allowed
 - Mosquitoes Joe is still performing tick treatments using natural oils
 - 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

- Summer Camp Update
 - American Camp Association Accreditation Visit and accreditation was completed
- Naticook After School Program
 - 3 staff hired and need 1 more staff member
 - 21 participants currently registered and hoping to get to 30
- Upcoming Special Events
 - Summer Concerts in the Park Wednesdays, June 21st – August 16th

- Rained out concert from June will be held on August 23rd
 - 4th Of July Festivities Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, July 4th
 - Movies in the Park
 - Saturday, August 26th Minions: Rise of Gru – Wasserman Park at 7pm
 - Saturday, September 30th Puss In Boots: The Last Wish
- Playground Updates
 - Twin Bridge Park – new slides have been delivered and need to close the park 2-3 to install
 - Wasserman Park – playground safety chips will be delivered and spread out once camp is closed
- Miscellaneous Updates
 - n/a

Organization Reports:

- MYA - Rick Greenier – not present
- Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall
 - Floors and rugs will be replaced and therefore no August meeting
 - September 25th Meals on wheels will serve lunch
 - October 21st they will host a Senior Fair – raffle baskets, food and vendors
 - Christmas Event is currently being planned
- School Board – Naomi Halter
 - First day of school is August 31st and it will be a staggered start
 - September 4th is day off due to Labor Day holiday
 - Bus routes should be posted approximately 1 week before school starts and they will start practicing their bus routes so might see the buses around town
 - During recent meeting the board created new goals to help better the overall school topics
- Student Representative – Matthew Brown
 - Class of 2025 and 2026 held car washing fundraisers over the summer and 1 more is planned on August 19th at Burger King intersection
 - Band camp is starting August 21st for marching band and the theme is Wicked
 - September 16th is Homecoming
 - Additional field space is a continued need for sports and band
- Town Council – Mackenzie Murphy
 - August 17th is next meeting

Comments from the Public: none

Comments from the Committee:

- Maureen Hall Human Society to hosts Wags to Wishes fundraiser for at Budweiser field on September 16th

Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, September 20th

Adjourn at 7:58pm

- Matthew Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm
- Laura Jaynes 2nd the motion
- 10-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Creswell