

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes  
Thursday, August 9, 2012  
Director's Office @ Wasserman Park

This Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup> the meeting was called to order at 5:25 pm. Due to inclement weather, the Naticook Day Camp Theater production was cancelled, but a cook-out was enjoyed by camp and Committee members.

Members present:            Tom Thornton                            Laura Jaynes  
   Shannon Barnes                           Jackie Flood  
   Phil Straight                                Lorraine Lessard  
   Sherry Kalish

Absent:            Chris Christensen, Don Nevers, Holly Lewis, Lynne Wenz

No public attendees at this meeting.

Phil Straight motioned to accept the June and July minutes. Motion seconded by Shannon Barnes.  
Motion passed 6-0-0.

### **New Business**

#### Director' Report

- a. Sherry reported that there is one week left of Naticook Day Camp. Things have gone well this summer. Open House had to be cancelled due to stormy weather. All 15 camperships were approved and awarded to Merrimack children. Carnival Day was held. WZID hosted a Block Party at the Park on August 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a huge success.  
**FYI: The Theater and Dining Hall at Wasserman Park have been closed due to lack of safety codes. (Idea to consider...could Theater be changed to a covered pavilion?)**
- b. Park Signs: nothing new to report. Can be deleted from agenda.
- c. Skateboard Park: Resurfacing of this park was completed during the last week of July. Summer hours will end on Aug. 30 with school hours beginning. The park will be open from 3-6:30 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, Closed on Wednesdays and open from 3-8 pm on Friday, 2-8 pm on Saturday and 2-6:30pm on Sunday. The park will close at Sunset if before 8:00pm.
- d. Summer Concerts: The concerts are going well. Committee members discussed attendance. Tonight's concert is cancelled due to inclement weather. They were not able to move to the High School.
- e. Budget Ideas: Sherry mentioned that budget time is coming up quickly. After some discussion, the committee would like to see if maintenance personnel could be reinstated. Sherry will need budget ideas by Oct. 1 for the November 1<sup>st</sup> submission.

### **Park Review Distribution**

As proposed by Lorraine Lessard at the June meeting, Field Review assignments were given at this August meeting. (see attached) Lorraine will send out the previous reviews to aid in this annual assignment. Lorraine would like these reviews to be completed by the regular Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Old Business**

1. Pavilion Subcommittee update: Phil reports that this group will be presenting their plan details at the August 16<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting, to go on to the Planning Board by September. Phil will ask Eileen Cabanel to look at the Conservation Committee for budgeting help.
2. Dog Park Subcommittee update: Tabled. No member present.

3. Adopt a Spot Program: After some discussion about the litter/trash situation at Watson Park, Phil spoke of the Adopt a Spot program which already exists in the Town of Merrimack. This could elicit a sponsor for Watson Park. Perhaps this is a program that can help with the maintenance at Watson Park. Other committee members were not aware of this program. Laura motioned to endorse this program, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lorraine. The motion passed with 6-0-0
4. Room Nominations: After considerable discussion, the committee unanimously voted to rename the Old Court room aka Town Hall Meeting room to “**Matthew Thornton.**” Phil Straight made the motion. Seconded by Shannon Barnes. Motion passed 6-0-0.  
At this time, the committee was unsure of what would qualify for local/recent nominations for naming other Town Hall rooms.

### **Old Business**

- a. Merrimack Senior Citizens Club: Lorraine reports that she is busy planning events and trips for the Club. The Fall Fair will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>; on December 12<sup>th</sup> there will be 2 buses headed to Indianhead for lunch and some fun.  
Information about the Club’s activities are posted on the Town’s website. Sherry will add the information to the departments Facebook page.
- b. MYA: tabled.
- c. School Board: Shannon Barnes reports that there is a joint meeting between the Town Council and the School Board scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Town Council: Jackie Flood reiterated concerns for the trash left at Watson Park.
- e. High School Rep.: tabled.

Comments: Sherry remarked about the Summer Concert Series and the low attendance. The new start time has not made a difference, good or bad, in the size of the audience. Perhaps we could consider a change in the venue or the concert schedule. To be discussed in November.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall Meeting room.