

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, 11.20.13
7:00 Town Hall Memorial Conference Room

Attendees: Chris Christensen, Kelly Valluzzi, Laura Jaynes, Dan Dwyer, Christine Lavoie and Michelle Cushman

Absent: Melanie Lesmerises, Lorraine Lessard, Shannon Barnes and Jackie Flood

Start time: 7:05pm

2 – Approval of October Meeting minutes were accepted

- Laura Jaynes made a motion to accept the minutes
- Christine Lavoie 2nd the motion
- 3-0-1 to accept minutes

1 – Introduction of new Director – update from Kelly Valluzzi

- Offer made
- Background check in progress
- Go to the Town Council for final offer
- Possible start date of January 2014

3 – Director/Chair Updates from Chris Christensen

a. Ice Rink

- Move to Martel Field – better lighting, dug outs, water system isn't buried deep enough to leave on during winter and close to the DPW
- Will be installed again at O'Gara Drive
- Ordered and delivered new rink from Nice Rink
- Life expectancy of 4-6 years
- Outside perimeter is portable

b. Halloween Party from Kelly Valluzzi

- Kelly Valluzzi to thank Chris Christensen, Laura Jaynes and Jackie Flood for all their help
- Event was a huge success with many people attending
- Opportunity to have food in future
- Chris Christensen to thank Kelly Valluzzi for all her hard work in making this a success

c. New Members from Chris Christensen

- Still room for new members
- Laura Jaynes to look into a Junior High Student for Parks and Rec Committee

d. Park Review – reminder

- Almost all parks and fields have been completed
- Still need Bishop and Twin Bridges completed

Old Business

1 – Holiday Parade – Sunday, December 1st: Christmas Around the World from Kelly Valluzzi

- At the time of this meeting, volunteers are still needed to help decorate the float
- Decorate at 12:30pm at the Commons
- Line up at 2/2:30pm
- Get to Abbey Griffin by 3pm

- Tree lighting at Abbey Griffin after the parade
- Girl Scouts and Merrimack Friends and Family will have hot chocolate
- Float was donated again by Chris Woods

2 – Dog Park from Chris Christensen

- Fund Raiser – winter themed photo session planned for Sunday, 11.24.13 from 11am – 2pm inside Pet's Choice
 - Get a picture for the dog or family
 - \$10 printed on site
 - \$5 photo emailed to you
- January 2014 Fund Raiser – Bowl-a-thon is a possibility
- Dan Cyr, Town Forrester, went to Wasserman Park with Paul Micali, Finance Director, and discussed the buffers
- Rough outline of dog park area
- Checked out trees and where they will go
- Harvesting good portion – forest management program which is about 4 acres
 - Trees need to be marked that are staying one color
 - Trees that need to be harvested marked in another color
 - Mark skid sites in another color
 - About one week to complete
- RFP to be finished by end of April 2014
- Ask Town Council to close park while work is going on and also while park is not being used
- May need a barrier at the end of the parking lot

New Business

1 – Town wide master plan for parks and recreational facilities from Chris Christensen

- Need future plans to be included in the current park plans

2 – 2014 Budget from Chris Christensen

- Budget has many similar line items that carry over year over year (heat, phones as example)
- What about the maintenance of the parks?
- "To Do" list to be reviewed
 - Dan Dwyer commented that Wasserman Park will have money put aside
 - Demolish dining hall at Wasserman Park is coming soon
 - Laura Jaynes concerned about Norma French playground – the drop off needs a snow fence
 - Laura Jaynes to talk to the NH Lakes Association to look into grant money for erosion for the waterfront at Wasserman Park
 - Kelly Valluzzi to email Adam about what would be maintenance items that can be performed
 - Function Hall at Wasserman Park could have suggestions to help with acoustics in the room – possible idea would be thicket drapes made of a carpet material to hang like art work
 - Laura Jaynes reviewed all parks with the following items mentioned:
 - Watson Park:
 - Many items regarding signs

- No rope swing
- Need to look into leaving “water quality advisory notice” and “swim at your own risk” notice
- Veteran’s Park:
 - Entrance is well marked
 - Parking lot is one way – designated to be one way but not used that way
 - Any room for parking lot?
 - Laura Jaynes and Kelly Valluzzi to work on press release for kiosk work
- Weston Park:
 - Improvements made from last year
 - Trash is really the issue, which is seasonal
 - Dan Dwyer suggested partnering with Buckley's or someone else to get trash picked up during busy months

3 – Next meeting dates: 12.18.13, 01.16.14 and 02.20.14

Updates

1 – Senior Citizens Club - Lorraine Lessard not present

2 – MYA - Melanie Lesmerises not present

3 – Town Council from Dan Dwyer

- Will back his role as a Parks & Rec committee member as the “To Do” goes to go to Town Council

4 – School Board - Shannon Barnes not present

5 – High School Representative

- Need a representative

Comments from the Public was nothing

Comments from the Committee was nothing

Adjourn at 8:31pm

- Laura Jaynes made the motion to adjourn
- Michelle Cushman 2nd the motion
- 4-0-0

Respectively submitted,
Michelle Cushman