

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes
Wednesday, February 06, 2013
7:00 pm Matthew Thornton Conference Room

Attendees: Tom Thornton Shannon Barnes Chris Christensen
Jackie Flood, Laura Jaynes Lynne Wenz Sherry Kalish

Absent: Holly Lewis, Phil Straight, John Schneider, Lorraine Lessard

Meeting started at 7:05 pm.

1. The November minutes were accepted with these amendments.
 - Replace @ with as.
 - Lynne Wenz submitted a written amendment to be included:
"I strenuously reject any criticism of the Dog Park subcommittee, particularly as relates to the handling of funds. Two of our members contributed their own money to get the T-shirt project off the ground. They should be congratulated for their generosity."
After some discussion, the committee clarified that the Dog Park subcommittee did indeed do a fine job. The T-shirt monies were refunded.
2. Director's Report: Sherry Kalish
 - a. The Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting went very well!
 - b. Ice Skating Rink is now opened and maintained.
 - c. Winter Carnival: Sherry reported that the Winter Carnival plans were in place for Saturday, Feb. 23rd, 12 - 3:00 pm. Activities include the Sno-Buds for snowmobile rides, a Karate Demonstration, a Dog demonstration, food by the Merrimack Friends and Family, the Dog Park subcommittee, the Merrimack Garden Club, etc. A port-a-john will be rented for the day. Volunteers are welcome!
 - d. Bus Trips: A new idea for bus trips includes a trip on Wed. May 8th to Swan's Chocolates and a local winery.
 - e. Naticook Day Camp: The process of hiring staff is going well. Camp fees will be the same as last year.
 - f. Merrimack Garden Club: This group has volunteered to decorate all the planters that are set up at the Parks around town.

- g. The budget review was held on Feb. 14th with the Town Council. No big surprises.
- h. Summer Concerts: After considerable discussion, the Committee agreed that "sponsors" should be approached to help promote this activity. Sherry will contact Deb Courtemanche, of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Merrimack Public Library for their input and ideas. Perhaps with combined efforts, the Summer Concert series will draw more of an audience.

Old Business:

1. Wasserman Park:

- a. Dog Park Presentation: Tom and Sherry created and presented a detailed power point to the Committee about the Dog Park with its 7 stages of approval. It is an excellent informational piece that clarifies the Dog Park goals, time-line, and fundraising. This item has been placed on the Town Council agenda for 2/14 to move forward on the tree removal stage with Forester Dan Cyr. After some discussion, the Grand Opening of the Dog Park at Wasserman Park is tentatively scheduled for June, 2013. Thanks to Tom and Sherry for providing the power point their hard work.
- b. Lynne made a motion to accept a fence enclosure valued at \$300.00 from the Nashua dog Owners Group for the Dog Park. Chris 2nd. Vote was 6-0-0.
- c. Tom reminded all sub-committees that there is Town protocol of where town committees can meet. All members are reminded to inform the Chair, Tom Thornton, of where they are meeting and what they are doing. Chris reiterated that there has to be clarification of funding for all projects.

2. Watson Park: There was no Pavilion update.

New Business:

- 1. ***We will begin meeting in the Town Hall Conference Room beginning in April.**

Updates from the following:

- a. Senior Citizens Club: Tabled. No rep.
- b. MYA: Comments from Shannon Barnes: Baseball Sign-ups and Spring soccer have started. The weather seems to be cooperating for Opening days.
- c. Town Council: Jackie Flood commented on the Committee's vision of Wasserman Park. After some discussion, it was thought that \$10,000 should be placed in the budget to replace the furnace in the Function Hall.
- d. School Board Rep: Shannon Barnes reported that the School Board is not in favor helping to improve the Tennis Courts at this time.
- e. High School Rep.: tabled. No rep.

Comments from the Committee:

- Lynne Wenz thanked the full committee for their support of the Dog Park.
- Chris Christensen thanked the Dog Park Subcommittee for their help and continued work for fundraising.

Comments from the Public:

There were several members of the Dog Park Subcommittee in the audience. Gary Watson spoke about the forestry project in regards to making sure there is sufficient tree shade left for the dogs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. Motion by Chris, 2nd by Shannon.

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee will be held on **March 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Matthew Thornton Conference Room.**

Respectfully submitted by Laura Jaynes, secretary.