**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

**Town Hall, Memorial Meeting Room**

**7:00pm**

**Attendees:** Tracy McGraw, Phil Przybyszewski, David Shaw**,** Naomi Halter – School Board Representative, Camryn Gaumont – Student Representative, Rick Greenier – MYA and Michelle Creswell

**Parks and Recreation Staff:** Matt Casparius, Director

**Absent:** none

**Excused:** Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Julie Poole, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Lon Woods - Town Council, Jonathan Barkley – Alternate MYA and Laurie Rothhaus – Alternate School Board Representative

**Public:** Melody Roe, Girl Scout Troop 13912

**Start time:** 7:00pm

**Open Meeting/Introductions**

**New Business:**

* Project Proposal - Melody Roe, Girl Scout Troop 13912 – Story Walk at Veterans Park
  + Proposed location at west entrance by the playground
  + As you walk in that area you can stop at posts and read the piece of a children’s book
  + Public Library will help to donate the books that will be rotated out
  + Proposed fundraising for local businesses to sponsor a post ($60) will also get a plaque of business name on the post
  + Phil Przybyszewski said that Merrimack Lion’s Club will sponsor a post
  + Phil Przybyszewski motioned to except the project proposal and to move forward to present to the Town Council
  + Rick Greenier 2nd the motion
  + 7-0-0 motion passed
  + See attached presentation for more detail

**Approval of minutes from November 16th, 2022**

* Phil Przybyszewski made the motion to accept the November meeting minutes
* Naomi Halter 2nd the motion
* 4-0-3 motion passed (abstained: Camryn Gaumont, Rick Greenier and Michelle Creswell)

**Old Business:**

* Update from Merrimack Dog Park - Tracy McGraw
  + Dog Park Fund Balance – $1,693.59
  + New mulch and berm donations and thank you for both
  + 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

* Parks & Recreation Budget Presentation to Town Council on Jan 19th at 6:30pm
  + Budget Change: Wasserman Park Road Project was cut
  + Budget does not change taxpayer cost
  + Hire of new position and will become Director of Summer and After School Programs
* Update on Watson Park Ice Skating Rink
  + Closed and hasn’t been able to open due to the weather
  + Signs are up to post closed/open status
* Kid’s Cove had tree damage due to weather in December and working with the insurance company
* Summer Camp Registration Update
  + Came registration is open and in first day 800 registrations came in
  + Discount for cost of camp if you sign up before Feb 15th save $10 a week
* Summer Hiring Update
  + Most head staff positions filled
  + 16-year-old – Jr Councilor
  + 15-year-old – Councilor in Training Program is back and will be 3 weeks (3 sessions will be held during the summer)
  + 18-year-old – Sr Councilor
* Upcoming Special Events
  + Murder Mystery Dinner - Saturday, Feb 11th at John O’Leary Senior Center and $58 per ticket
  + 31st Annual Winter Carnival – Saturday, Feb 25th

**Organization Reports:**

* Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall absent
* MYA - Rick Greenier
  + Basketball and wresting are currently in session
  + Lacrosse and softball registrations are open
  + Rick Greenier thanked Merrimack Public Works and Merrimack School District for all they do for MYA
  + merrimackyouthassociation.com
* Student Representative – Camryn Gaumont
  + Students are enjoying the sporting events
* Town Council – Lon Woods absent
* School Board – Naomi Halter
  + Next school vacation is February 27th – March 3rd

**Comments from the Public:** none

**Comments from the Committee:** none

**Future Meeting Dates**

* Wednesday, February 15th
* Wednesday, March 15th

**Adjourn at 7:36pm**

* Rick Greenier made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm
* Phil Przybyszewski 2nd the motion
* 7-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Creswell