

# Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 02.20.19

Matthew Thornton Room

7:00 pm

**Attendees:** Christine Lavoie, Tracy McGraw, Rick Greenier, Abbie Cote, Corey Davenport, Peter Albert, Brandi Nunez

**Absent:** Hillary Baird, Laura Jaynes, Michelle Creswell, Julie Poole, Maureen Hall

**Staff Present:** Matt Casparius, Parks & Recreation Director; Kierstin Merlino, Program Coordinator

## 1 Open Meeting/Introductions: 7:02 pm

## 2 Approval of minutes from January 16, 2019.

- Tracy McGraw made the motion to accept the January meeting minutes as presented
- Rick Greenier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to accept the January meeting minutes as presented
- 5-0-2 (abstained – Peter Albert, Brandi Nunez)

## 3 Old Business

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park
  - Dog Park Fund Balance – \$1,690.04 (as of 01.31.19)
  - Fundraising Calendar Update – 84 Calendars sold which raised \$717.55.
  - Special thank you fo

- **Parks & Recreation Committee Survey Report:**

Matt Casparius presented a summary report of the Survey Results received to date. Most of the responses have been submitted electronically but we do have hard copies available at Town Hall and the Adult Community Center. He reported that as of today we had 116 responses, which he felt showed some interesting results so far. There are a lot of activities mentioned that either the Parks & Recreation Department is already doing or it is an activity currently being run by other groups in Town. For example there were several people that asked for Adult Education programs; which are currently run by the Schools District. There was also several asking for more senior programs along with Senior Transportation.

He went on to report that 51.8% of survey respondents say they want to be notified by email and 35.7% want to be notified thru Social Media for a total of 87.5% of respondents that want to be notified electronically. We use both of these methods to advertise but their seems to be a disconnect between what people are asking for with what is already being offered so it is something we will need to look at.

Matt reported that there were multiple comments about better playing field conditions, which we knew and expected and reminded the Committee that the obviously challenge with field conditions is that our fields are overused because we don't have enough fields in Town and so they don't get a chance to rest and recover.

Matt suggested everyone take the summary packet home to review the results to date and then we can revisit it in March and see where we want to go from there. Matt also reported that we are continuing to publicize the survey in hopes of gaining additional responses from the public. It was also suggested that we look into setting up a table at the Deliberative Session on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

## 4 Director's Report - Matt Casparius

- Parks & Recreation Budget Presentation to the Town Council and has been approved as presented at this point. We simply have to wait for the Deliberative Session on March 13<sup>th</sup> and then the ballot vote in April for it to become official.
- Report on the Murder Mystery Dinner and Cupid's Family Ball.
  - The murder mystery dinner was a big success with 83 attendees. The event was lower than the 100 attendees we had last year and so we are looking at replacing the event with something different next year.
  - Cupid's Family Ball was very successful with 45 people in attendance and so we were happy with the results.
- Upcoming Special Events

- 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival is this Saturday from 12:00 – 3:00 pm at Wasserman Park. We have 29 different groups providing various games, crafts and other activities this year; which is up from 20 last year.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. We have already ordered our pre-filled Easter Eggs for this year and will have 10,000 Easter Eggs.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Earth Day Community Clean Up Day will take place on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Last year we had more than 300 volunteers cleaning up 18 different locations in Town which provided a tremendous benefit to the Town. We are starting to recruit groups and individuals for this year.

- Summer Camp

- Registration for Camp has been open for a month and going very well. We are currently 28% ahead of year to date registrations compared to this time last year. Naticook Day Camp is 33% full and Camp Trek is 55% full at this time. None of the weeks are sold out yet, but we are trending in that direction.
- Summer hiring is ongoing. We have a large number of staff returning this year but are still currently looking for Swim Instructors, a seasonal park maintainer, a Special Needs Aide, an Arts & Crafts Instructor, Nature Instructor and an Archery instructor.

## 5 Organization Reports

- Senior Citizen Club – Not Present
- MYA - Rick Greenier
  - Open spots on the Executive Board
  - Soccer Registration is now open.
- Town Council – Peter Albert
  - Glad to see that the \$90,000 for the Waterfront Project was approved by the Council.
- School Board – Brandi Nunez
  - School District Budget has been finalized
  - One big item is 1.2 million dollars for a Turf Field
  - They are currently exploring sponsorship opportunities for the Turf Field to reduce the cost.
- School Representative – Abbie Cote
  - February Vacation Week is next week
  - Mr. MHS is going on tonight which is always a fun event.

## 6 Comments from the Public – was none

## 7 Comments from the Committee - None

## 8 Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## 9 Adjourn at 7:24pm

- Corey Davenport made the motion to adjourn at 7:24pm
- Peter Albert 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 7-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,  
Kierstin Merlino  
Program Coordinator