

**Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 03.18.15**  
**Town Hall Memorial Conference Room**  
**7:00pm**

**Attendees:** Jackie Flood, Christine Lavoie, Dan Ricker, Rick Greenier – MYA, Maureen Hall - Senior Citizens Club, and Shannon Barnes – School Board, Chris Christensen

Parks and Recreation Director: Matt Casparius

**Absent:** Michelle Cushman, Laura Jaynes, Dan Dwyer

**Start time:** 7:00pm

**Open Meeting/Introduction**

**Approval of minutes from February 18th, 2015**

- Shannon Barnes made the motion to accept the February Meeting Minutes
- Jackie Flood 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 5-0-1 to accept minutes

**New Business**

a. New Perspective Committee Members:

- Two potential candidates for the open Parks & Recreation Committee spaces that we have. We currently have 1 Full Member Opening and 2 Alternate Member openings.
  1. Julie Pool
  2. Melissa Kowalewski
- Interviews with the Town Council will be scheduled shortly

**Old Business**

**A. Update from the Friends of the Merrimack Dog Park**

- Matt Casparius reported that the amount of money raised (as of 3/10/15) is \$20,440.28
- Christine Lavoie provided updates from the Dog Park Committee:
  - Now that winter is leaving, the group will be out seeking sponsorships again
  - Will be working with Rotary club at the rabies Clinic in April 11<sup>th</sup> 9-12 at town garage.
  - Participating at the voting day
  - Play dates on Sat/Sun mornings are going well
  - Lot of new members following FB page: Friends of the Merrimack Dog Park
  - Booth on Voting Day
  - May 13<sup>th</sup> starts the Petsafe Contest for a dog park!
  - Dog License stuffer is complete and going out. Notices also posted at Town Hall

**Director's Report - Matt Casparius**

**A. Budget Update**

- No additional changes were made to the budget. Currently waiting for election day!
- Reported that he is working on getting security cameras for Skateboard Park on O'Gara Drive. Chris Christensen questioned the need for cameras? Shannon Barnes reported that the School Committee had concerns with the Park being open during the School Day given its proximity to the Schools and having kids wander down there when they should be in school. There was also concern that without an attendant staffing the Park that drugs might become prevalent there.

**B. Winter Carnival**

- Was a success despite the cold.
- Saturday February 21, 2015 from 12pm – 3pm

- The cold weather did keep attendance lower than last year.
- Doubled the community tables over last year.

#### C. Spring/Summer Activity Brochures:

- Matt reported that the new Spring/Summer Activity Brochures are available. The Department is now offering over 120 programs & events a year compared to about 25 when he first took over 15 months ago. Brochures are available at the Town Hall and Library and also online. Rick said the brochures looked awesome! Wondered if they can be distributed thru the schools? Possibly available thru the office? Or possible link? Shannon mentioned that it would need to be discussed with the superintendent.

#### D. Job Fair

- Chris Christensen asked how the job fair turned out. Matt reported that approximately 45 kids signed in, however, not everyone signed in. We had 8 Business that participated so overall it was pretty good for a brand new event.

#### E. Summer Hiring

- 95% staffed for the summer
- In need of Lifeguards!
- Rick mentioned to reach out to the swim team for lifeguards.

#### F. Girl Scouts

- Preparing for Earth Day and want to help with clean up at parks, similar to last year.
- Matt compiling a list of things that need to be completed.

#### G. Summer Concert Series

- Chris Christensen asked if the concert series was ready for the season. Matt stated they were all set, posters and banners coming soon. This year it will be 8 concerts.
- He also reported that we've added 2 movie nights in the Park as well to the schedule which will be:
  - 7/1/15 @ Abby Griffith – Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No good, Very Bad day
  - 8/12 @ Abby Griffith – Mary Poppins

#### H. Wasserman Park Updates:

- Matt reported that a walkthrough had been done with contractors bidding on the Wasserman Park improvement projects.
- Currently waiting for bids to come back; the deadline is Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The deadline for completion of all the work is June 1<sup>st</sup> to be ready for the start of the Summer.

#### I. Miscellaneous

- Disc Golf Project is still under review
- Easter Egg Hunt was originally scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2015, but had to be postponed due to the amount of snow still on the ground at Wasserman Park. The event has been rescheduled **to April 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 11:30 am at Wasserman park.**
- The Parks & Recreation Department Administrative Offices are still at Town Hall for the time being. Currently waiting for the snow to melt and temperatures to rise so the water can be turned back on at the Wasserman Park Office. Last year they moved back to Wasserman on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Organization Reports

### A. Senior Citizens Club - Maureen Hall

- Signups for Martha's Vineyard are open to residents now.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Indian Head Resort Event was a success
- March 25<sup>th</sup> - bus to Foxwoods
- April 21<sup>st</sup> – Neil Sedaka Concert
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – Newport Playhouse event is sold out
- 230 members currently in the Club
- Signups for possible Booth Bay overnight clambake.
- Be sure to check out the calendar.
- Seniors use Fox Tours
- Rick mentioned that he has used premier tours in past with good luck.

### B. MYA - Rick Greenier

- Mentioned it's nice to see indoor facilities being used more.
- Wrestling wrapping up.
- Softball, baseball and lacrosse are in sign up right now.
- Travel soccer starts in a few weeks.
- April 9th is their next meeting
- No changes to the committee.

### C. Town Council –Dan Dwyer – absent

### D. School Board - Shannon Barnes

- Are you ready for it???? (Insert drum roll here....) Graduation is June 13<sup>th</sup> @ High School Fields
- It was nice to see 23 Scholar Students recognized by Gov. Maggie Hasan.
- June 19<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> is tentative last day of school (this is subject to the weather), sill TBA as they are working with Gov to have one day waived from the requirement due to Gov declaring snow emergency.
- No changes to budget.

## 7 – Comments from the Public - was nothing

## 8 – Comments from the Committee

- Matt C mentioned Convenient MD opening soon and they are interested in sponsorships, located at exit 11 by Shaw's mall.

## 9 – Next Meeting Date/Time:

- 04.15.15 @ Town Hall.

## 10 – Adjourn at 7:45 pm

- Shannon Barnes made the motion to adjourn at 7:45pm
- Rick Greenier 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- 6-0

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Lavoie