

Merrimack Parks and Recreation MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Town Hall, Matthew Thornton Meeting Room
7:00 pm

Attendees: Tracy McGraw - Chair, Rick Greenier – MYA, Maureen Hall – Senior Citizens Club, Naomi Halter – School Board, MacKenzie Murphy – Town Council, Josh Toms – Member, Phil Przybyszewski – Member

Parks and Recreations Staff: Matt Casparius, Director

Absent: None

Excused: Christine Lavoie - Vice Chair, Laura Jaynes, Heather Fairbanks, Matthew Brown – Student Representative, Michelle Creswell – Secretary, Julie Poole

START TIME: 7:01pm

Open Meeting / Introductions

Approval of minutes from November 15, 2023

- Phil moved to accept minutes from November 15, 2023 meeting
- Josh seconded the motion
- Motion passed: 5-0-2

Approval of minutes from January 17, 2024

- Phil moved to accept minutes from January 17, 2024 meeting
- Josh seconded the motion
- Motion passed: 4-0-3

New Business

- Donation to After School Scholarship Fund
 - Naticook After School Program
 - Lion's Club – \$500
 - Asks that other community organizations join by donating

Old Business

- Update from Merrimack Dog Park
 - Current balance \$497.34

Director's Report

- Budget Update
 - MYA Petitioned Warrant Article – for Greenfield Farm athletic fields – on for Deliberative Session – if voted for, will go to the ballot in April 2024
 - Corporate Partners for current field use from Elbit & Getinge
 - \$1,000,000, cost; adds \$0.22 per thousand per house in tax base

- Have needed these fields since 2010
- Deliberative Session Wednesday, March 13th, 7:00 pm – JMUES
 - Has to be approved for the amount to go to ballot at that amount
- Summer Camp
 - Registration – registration open for 6 weeks, 80% full, teen camp is 60% full; as of 2/20/24, had 1205 registrations for summer
 - Staffing Needs – counselors have been confirming; need 18 & older for teen camp, cook, archery, weekend park attendant for beach, weekend life guard coverage
 - Minimum age – 18 except for lifeguards, which is 16 years old; lifeguards start at \$16/hour; will reimburse for course if you come to work for the camp for the summer
- Upcoming Special Events
 - Winter Carnival Saturday, February 24th 12:00 – 3:00 pm
 - Consider changing date in future
 - 33 groups/businesses coming
 - Games/activities
 - MMFF selling food/baked goods
 - Good weather expected – all outdoor event
 - Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 23rd 10:00 – 11:45 am
 - Giving away 6500 Easter Eggs due to cost of eggs
 - Usually draws 1000+ people, depending upon weather
- Miscellaneous Updates:
 - Ice Skating rink open again
 - Was open for a week in January, then a few days in February
 - This open period may be the last for the season, depending upon forecasted

Organization Reports

- MYA-baseball, softball, soccer registrations; check social media for updates on Warrant Article
- Senior Citizens Club – last week had ice cream social; new elections for officers; President: Lorraine Lessard; VP: Kathleen Conlin; Treasurer: Lydia DeLuca; Asst. Treasurer: Ninfa DFazio; Secretary: Louise Tedesky; signs up for Irish trip; other trips coming up; Thursday 2/22/24 – wrap up towels in soap for Nashua Soup Kitchen;
- School Board – in budget season; encourage everyone to attend School deliberative session 3/4/24 at JMUES; filing period open for school board, ends 3/5/24; school vacation is next week, next year school calendar approved – 1st day of school is 8/29/24
- Student Representative – not present, but shared an update through email: MHS Robotics competed in Week Zero, and went all the way to the semifinals; spring sport registration is now open; on Saturday, MHS and MMS Band students participated in the Solo and Ensemble Festival at Keene State College

- Town Council – met last night; voted on 12 Warrant Articles; 2 are Petition Warrants; open roles for TC 3, 2 Library, 1 Ethics, 1 Tax Collector, 1 Moderator, 1 Supervisor of Checklist; VOTE 4/9/24

Comments from the Public

Comments from the Committee

- Girl Scout Civil War project; small group of family members; Lion's club will participate; 2nd Saturday each month for next few months; robust project; support from Home Depot and other vendors

Next Meeting

- March 20th, 2024
- April 17, 2024

ADJOURN:

- Maureen moved to Adjourn
- Josh seconded the motion
- Motion passed: 7-0-0

ADJOURNED: 7:26 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. McGraw, Chair