

NORTH MANCHESTER PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

January 26, 2022

MINUTES

The North Manchester Parks & Recreation Board met in regular session at the Strauss-Peabody Aquatic and Fitness Center Conference Room. Members present: President Mel Sautter (24), Vice-President Jack Vineyard (25), Rick Espeset (23), and Becky Kreps (22). Also present were Jennifer Hotchkiss (Director), Linda Miller (Assistant Director) and Brian Enyeart (MRA President).

CALL TO ORDER

Mel Sautter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2022 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mel Sautter opened discussion for the 2022 election of officers by asking for nominations for the offices of President and Vice-President. Jack Vineyard nominated Mel Sautter for President. Motion for approval of nomination (JV/RE) passed by a voice vote of members present. Mel Sautter nominated Jack Vineyard for Vice-President. Motion for approval of nomination (MS/BK) passed by a voice vote of members present.

OTHER REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2022

Mel Sautter opened discussion for Park Board representative appointments to the MRA and Planning Commission. Jack is currently the MRA representative and the MRA Treasurer. He volunteered to continue in that capacity. Mel is the current Planning Commission representative and offered to continue as such for another year.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were none.

MINUTES

Minutes from the December 6, 2021 Regular Meeting were presented for approval. Motion for approval (BK/JV) was passed by a voice vote of members present.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

The Maintenance Report was reviewed. (Copy attached)

DIRECTOR REPORT

The Director's Report was reviewed. (Copy attached)

MRA REPORT

Jack reported that 2022 registrations have started and they will be distributing forms to the schools and will hold another registration night on February 22nd. He met with Franny Schannep, who will be the Concession Director again this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL PAYMENTS

Claims and Allowance Docket

The January Claims and Allowance Docket in the amount of \$61,821.55 was reviewed. Motion to approve the January Claims and Allowance Docket in the amount of \$61,821.55 (JV/BK) was passed by a voice vote of members present.

Monthly Park and Recreation Financial Reports

The January Claims Summary, Utility Comparison Report, December Expense Reports and December Revenue Report were reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Splash

Jennifer reported receiving a legal notice from North Carolina referencing the estate of Grace Pinson. She then contacted Julie at the Community Foundation. Evidently, when Grace's estate is settled, some funds will be sent to the Splash Pool Endowment Fund as a memorial contribution. Also, the recent deaths of John Mort and Elizabeth Schilling also listed the Splash Pool Endowment as memorials for contributions. Jennifer also reported that she is now able to go online to check the current balance, which after 10 years, is now a little over \$524,000.

Dog Park – MRA Lease

Brian Enyeart said he was just there to listen and he would give an MRA update at the end. Mel then stated that the Park Board had already approved the location of the dog park, prior to being made aware of the MRA Board's concerns. Their concerns were heard by Adam Penrod (Town Manager), Town Council and the Parks Board and in response, a letter was drafted and mailed to the MRA Board, which Brian acknowledges receiving. Mel stated the goal tonight is to have the Park Board approve the letter, which will be permanently attached to the lease and recorded as such in the minutes, then vote to approve the 2022 lease. In the future, if/when the MRA provides detailed reports of design plans and cost estimates and has raised 80% threshold of the goal, the Parks Department will vacate the dog park, remove the facilities, find another location, and the land would be available for the MRA to develop. It is the consensus of the Park Board that this is a very fair way to proceed and it shouldn't affect any MRA future plans because they need to have its plans/funds already secured and approved. Mel also noted that the Parks Department has plans to install signs indicating the direction of traffic flow for the Dog Park and MRA Complex, as well as signage for no dogs allowed on MRA grounds. Brian told the Park Board that he, and a few other MRA Board members, are not against the dog park, just the location. They have future plans and that is the only land they have to expand. They were under the assumption it would always be available for their recreational needs or expansion use and it was basically given to the town for the sole purpose of keeping it from being split up or parceled out and it would always be available for their recreational needs or expansions. It was never intended for the town to use for whatever they want. He talked about the possible plans they have which include additional parking and a little league field, additional parking and a coach's pitch/t-ball field or a larger field that's a footprint to a new field for High School Girls' Softball. He also stated that MJSHS has requested they have no parking on the south side in the grassy areas. This will force cars to park in the back parking lot and if that happens, they may have to make it overflow parking. They don't want to see the dog park put in and then have to remove it after a short time. Mel replied that it wouldn't be an issue because the fencing can easily be taken down and moved to another location with labor being the only cost. Brian also informed the Park Board of the MRA's plan to put in a well and commented that the lease says they need to have prior approval, so he is asking right now. Jennifer told him he would need to put it in writing so it could be presented to Park Board and he agreed to do so. He said he just wants the Park Board to know the MRA plans to have the money together sooner than later (within 2 years) which will make the Dog Park short-lived. The parking situation this year will dictate which direction they go. Motion to approve the MRA letter of understanding and make it a permanent attachment to the lease but modify the second sentence of the third paragraph to say "The MRA will be required to notify the Parks Board of their intentions to fundraise for the capital improvements and provide a detailed report with design and cost estimates to meet the standards of the existing fields minus lighting and irrigation." (JV/RE) was passed by a voice vote of members present.

Ogan's Landing Canoe Launch

There was no update at this time.

Aquatics Position

Two candidates were interviewed by the committee and Jennifer will be placing a call to offer the position to one of them tomorrow.

MRA Lease

The 2022 MRA lease for the Glenn W. Ruppel Parks and Recreation Complex was approved and signed. The lease amount remains \$1.00 per year. Motion to approve the 2022 lease for the Glenn W. Ruppel Parks and Recreation Complex (JV/RE) was passed by a voice vote of members present.

TLC – Town Life Center Rental Rates

Jennifer presented new rental rates for the Town Life Center beginning February 1, 2022 which are more in line with what we currently offer, half day and full day rentals, as opposed to renting by the hour. Motion for approval (JV/BK) was passed by a voice vote of members present.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED _____

Mel Sautter, President

Jack Vineyard, Vice-President

Becky Kreps, Member

Bobbi Lautzenheiser, Member

Rick Espeset, Member