

MINUTES OF THE MANCHESTER PARKS BOARD- 13 April 2015

The Manchester Parks Board held a business meeting at Charlottes Quest Nature Center on Monday, April 13, 2015. Chair Ellen Rugemer called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. Those in attendance were Board members Ellen Rugemer, Ellen Frey, Bill Skinner, Robin Fishpaw, Barb Trump, Vince DePalmer, Marcia Bogash, Justin Watts, Donna Davis, Councilperson Debbie Howe, and Pattycake.

Minutes: A motion to approve the March 2015 meeting minutes was made by Barb Trump, seconded by Marcia Bogash, and passed.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Marcia Bogash submitted a written report. Beginning checking account balance as of 3/ 8/ 15 was \$10,793.71. March-April deposits: \$515.00. March-April debits: \$1,104.54. Account balance as of April 13, 2015: \$10,204.17. A motion to accept the Treasurers report was made by Ellen Frey, seconded by Vince DePalmer, and passed.

PR: Marcia Bogash reported that there has been much PR activity. We received great news coverage in the newspapers and on channel 19 for the Easter Egg Hunt. Posters for SpringFest and the Plant Swap have been distributed throughout Westminster, Hampstead and Manchester. Marcia provided additional posters to Board members to distribute.

Naturalist Report: no report from Sherry Fisher-Cole.

Programs:

Easter Egg Hunt: All board members that participated felt the morning went well despite the cold and snow. Ellen Rugemer mentioned that the cold worked to our advantage as the frozen ground kept the grass parking areas from becoming muddy. The scouts and other youth volunteers were extremely helpful with set-up, directing parking, and emptying leftover eggs afterward. SpringFest information was provided to egg hunt families.

SpringFest: (Sunday May 3- 12 to 4 PM) - Ellen Frey reported that all press releases have been sent. She also submitted a paid ad and on-line notices. Manchester Fire Dept. has confirmed. Carroll County Humane Society is participating with their 20 ft. adopt-a-pet trailer. Ellen Frey obtained raffle permits. The Board agreed to have a 50/50 raffle. Someone gave Vince DePalmer a 50 lb. bag of birdseed as a donation. Ellen and Vince suggested raffling the bag to raise funds. The Board agreed. No face painter yet. Ellen will put together a call list for cancellation. She is still working on final lay-out as calls are still coming in for vendor participation. Board members that will be assisting with the event should arrive at 9AM on Saturday May 2, and at 9AM on Sunday May 3 for set-up duties.

Give-a-Gift to Nature: Marcia Bogash reported that she has received only two donations for 2015. She suggested holding the ceremony bi-annually, with the next memorial ceremony to take place October 2016. The Board agreed.

Plant Swap: (Sunday May 31, 10 -3) Barb Trump passed out very nice advertising posters. She asked Board members to look for gardening related items to donate to the white elephant table. Proceeds will go to the nature center. Leesa Green will conduct a fairy garden workshop. Those interested must call and reserve a spot.

Postal Park: Marcia Bogash and Barb Trump reported that there will be an “Ask a Master Gardener” information table at Postal Park on Earth Day – April 22 from 11 to 2 PM. Free seed packets and gardening related brochures will be available. Marcia and Barb will also be tending the park garden at that time. Anyone is welcome to assist with the garden work.

Archeology Investigation: Stephen Israel will be at CQ on May 18 (rain date May 19) from 12 to 4PM.

Other programs: Marcia Bogash spoke of the need to provide environmental programs and activities for adults. The Board briefly discussed several ideas and will consider ideas at a future meeting.

Facilities:

Telescope Building: The telescope has been delivered. Bill Skinner mentioned that the best place to locate the telescope for optimal viewing will be in the middle of the field in front of the building. Some trees will need to be removed for line of sight. He said the shed size needed will be approx. 8X10 or 8X12 ft. He suggested building a wooden platform instead of concrete. Wood will be easier to relocate. It may also be necessary to build a step stool for children to reach the eye piece. Bill will contact the Town after SpringFest to get permission for the shed location, etc.

Bench: Bill Skinner reported that Mrs. Polk called him to let us know her memorial bench is ready to be installed at the park. It weighs 300 lbs.

Pond: no new information.

New building: Barb Trump said her nephew Keven Utz offered to prepare 3-D drawings if we need them for a presentation for the grant proposal.

Old Business: none

New Business: Steve Miller forwarded information on a BG&E Green Grants program. It provides grants up to \$10,000 to non-profits for projects that “ promote environmental stewardship through energy efficiency and conservation”. Bill Skinner and Ellen Rugemer will work on the grant if a project is identified. Board members should forward any project ideas to Bill or Ellen ASAP. The grant is due May 15.

With no other business Marcia Bogash moved to adjourn the meeting at 8PM. The next Parks Board meeting will be 7 PM Monday, May 11, 2015 at Charlottes Quest Nature Center.

Minutes submitted by: Donna Davis, Secretary 14 April 2015