

Minutes of the Manchester Parks Board Meeting Monday 11 August 2014

The Manchester Parks Board held a monthly business meeting on Monday August 11, 2014 at the Charlottes Quest Nature Center. Those in attendance were: Chair Ellen Rugemer, Vice-chair Bill Skinner, Treasurer Marcia Bogash, Secretary Donna Davis, Barb Trump, Ellen Frey, Justin Watts, Tom Smith, Bruce Smith, and Council Representative Debbie Howe.

Call to order 7 PM

Minutes: Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed. Ellen Frey requested to change the statement in the minutes concerning purging the newsletter mailing list from; “not paid dues since 2012 to; “ not paid dues as of 2012.” This change was accepted as presented.

Treasurers Report: Marcia Bogash reported a checking account balance is \$8, 730.22 We had enough to pay the naturalist salary and all bills.

Naturalist report: There is no official report submitted. Marcia Bogash said she usually tries to stop by when the naturalist is here and reported that there is a program scheduled on the 13th. Everything seems to be going fine. Bill Skinner reported that Sherry Fisher-Cole is bringing the children from the day care camp she runs at CCC to the nature center for day trips.

PR: Marcia Bogash and Barb Trump reported that it was a wonderful time at the National Night Out. The Nature Center table was well visited and many prizes for the fishing pond game were awarded. Steve Miller was very pleased with the turnout. We got 7 or 8 volunteer names. Two groups requested a nature center presentation at their schools. The winners of the “what animal is this” contest will be pulled at the Town meeting on Wed. Cost for purchases (prizes, gift cards) was only \$70.00.

Barb Trump said several people have expressed interest in attending a dig when Steve is active. Discussion by the Board about the difficulty in pinning down Steve’s schedule due to weather, etc.. Marcia said she can put the info on the website with short notice. Marcia is working on a short play about the history of Manchester.

Programs:

Autumn planting- October 12 3PM. Marcia Bogash and Bill Skinner will work on the invitations. Marcia mailed out two more give a gift of nature brochures. Donna Davis will look for a tree. The Board would like to plant a small to medium height tree near the driveway/parking lot.

Bocce Ball Tournament: BillSkinner reported 19 teams. Winner of 50/50 raffle received \$92.00. Bruce Smith sold a lot of raffle tickets. Next tournament is Oct. 4.

Scheduling: Justin will visit the staff orientation meeting at Ebb Valley on Aug 20 at 8 AM to talk to the teachers about the use/reservation procedures for the nature center and grounds.

Facilities:

Gate: Discussion of difficulty of opening the gate due to weight. It was suggested to switch to a double-gate. Marcia Bogash moved that we purchase a double gate. Ellen Frey seconded. Motion passed. Bill Skinner will research costs, etc.

Trails: Bill Skinner reported on the tree inventory – The first phases of the inventory was conducted using a 360 degree exterior visual inspection of trees within striking distance of major trails. Trees were not penetrated mechanically to access any interior rot. Trees were assessed for dead limbs, cracked limbs and major cracking of boles, visual evidence of extensive exterior rot, uprooting. The group focused on surveying the highest use areas first. The trails going through the conifer woodland next to the parking lot were inventoried as well as the trees overhanging the parking area. 21 trees were designated as suggested for removal based on condition. Some of these trees are in fair shape except for large dead limbs overhanging the trails. However, in cases where a tree is not easily accessible to remove the dead limb, complete tree removal was recommended. We will continue to survey the rest of the trails, keeping an eye out for obvious danger trees. The Board began a discussion on who will take the trees down. Debbie Howe will discuss the next step with Steve Miller.

Pond: Bill Skinner reported that the consulting company has pulled their monitors and we are waiting for a report.

Building and Grounds: Marcia Bogash reported that there has been no water in the building after the last rains. Bill Skinner plans to remove the forsythia near the driveway as it has out-grown its space. He is also working on clearing out some of the other bushes. Additional clearing should also be done to reduce moisture levels around the building. A request was received to donate a bench in memory of a child. The Board was agreeable to this with more details. Bill Skinner will get specific information. The post for the Amalemma will be placed 1pm Monday Aug 18. The Board members agreed that the size of proposed sign presented by Ellen Rugemer will work well. Marcia Bogash confirmed that there is money available from Bocce proceeds to purchase the sign. Marcia Bogash moved to move ahead with sign, second by Bill Skinner. Motion passed.

New Business: Ellen Rugemer received some volunteer requests to serve through the email. The Board discussed the need for someone to act as a volunteer coordinator. Weeding is a big, constant need.

Marcia Bogash motioned to nominate Bruce Smith as Board member. Justin seconded. Motion passed. The nomination will be passed to the Town Council for approval. All new members need to be sworn in at a council meeting.

Tom Smith mentioned that some folks at Bocce tournaments were asking what the money was being used for. The Board discussed providing a list or some pictures during the tournaments showing the improvements made possible with the Bocce proceeds. Ellen Rugemer volunteered to make the poster. Bill Skinner also suggested acknowledging the Bocce referees with a letter of thanks or a certificate. Donna will bring some thank you cards to the next meeting for all to sign.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM