

MINUTES OF THE MANCHESTER PARKS BOARD- 13 July 2015

The Manchester Parks Board held a business meeting at Charlottes Quest Nature Center on Monday, July 13, 2015. Chair Ellen Rugemer called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Those in attendance were Board members Ellen Rugemer, Ellen Frey, Barb Trump, Vince DePalmer, Marcia Bogash, Justin Watts, Bruce Smith, Bill Skinner, Robin Fishpaw, Lynne Sneeringer, Donna Davis.

Minutes: Ellen Frey noted that the date of national night out is Tuesday August 4, not the 5th, as reported in the minutes. A motion to approve the June 2015 meeting minutes with corrections was made by Marcia Bogash, seconded by Ellen Frey and passed.

Treasurers Report: Marcia Bogash provided a detailed written financial report for May 1 –July 6 2015 (attached). Total expenditures: \$7,837.91. Total income: \$3,422.40. Account balance on July 6 2015: \$4,667.02. All bills have been paid. Reimbursement for the Naturalist salary for the sum of \$832.00 has been received from The Town. A motion to accept the Treasurers report as submitted was made by Ellen Frey. Motion seconded by Justin Watts and passed.

PR: Marcia Bogash reported that she provided the County Office of Tourism with a large batch of brochures and newsletters, including maps of park trails and of the Douglas Seabreeze Memorial Nature Trail. She also dropped off information to the senior center, library, and will deliver some to Snickerdoodles. She also reported that the Advocate has been giving our activities great coverage and have published articles and pictures of the Bocce Ball tournament and the Plant Swap. Marcia Bogash made a motion to erect signage marking the Seabreeze memorial trail. Robin Fishpaw seconded. Motion passed.

Naturalist Report: Marcia Bogash reported that Sherry Fisher-Cole had a huge turn-out the day Steve Israel and Tom Smith were conducting an archeological dig. She said that Sherry has raised the program registration \$1.00, as discussed. There are no big program groups scheduled until fall. Marcia worked with Sherry on creating an invoice to use for program billing. It was submitted to Donna Davis for printing. The Board discussed procedures for how the public should register for classes and events. Robin Fishpaw is currently monitoring the voice mail and said that some are inquiring about programs but there is no way of knowing when the call was received. After discussion, it was decided to leave the phone number off of the newsletter and require all registration to be done online.

Programs: *Bocce Ball:* Vince Depalmer submitted funds of \$1,091.00 from the June 20 tournament that were raised for the nature center. He reported that the tournament was very successful and many players indicated that they plan to return for the next event. An approaching storm on June 20 made it necessary to finish games on Monday. Splitting the day actually worked out very well. The Lions Club will also be having a tournament fund- raiser for their organization.

National Night Out: (Tuesday August 4): Event will be held at the carnival grounds. The Board discussed which games and activities to provide at the CQNC booth, and settled on the fishing game again for this year. Plenty of members are available to operate the nature center booth. Volunteers should arrive at 5:30 PM for set-up. Fred is missing from the taxidermy display.

Facilities: Barb Trump reported that Lisa Greene was very generous donating flats of annual flowers to plant around the building. The next work day will be Monday evening July 20 from 7 to 9 PM.

Telescope Building: The Board toured the new telescope building. Some grading still needs to be completed. The Board is very grateful to Bill Skinner for his work on planning the project, obtaining and installing the building.

Nature Center building: Bill Skinner will begin removing tall bushes from around building. All of the large bushes that are around the building will eventually be removed.

Membership: Barb Trump is reviewing the member list. She reports three new members. Currently 92 newsletters are mailed. A number of members have not paid dues. The Board had discussed at past meetings dropping delinquent members from the mailing list. The Board discussed ways to reach out to advertise membership. Justin Watts will provide contact info for the PR administrator for CCPS.

New Business: Ellen Rugemer provided draft pictures of a large donation box that she volunteered to construct this winter. It will be 4 to 5 ft. tall and have handles on it to make it easy to place out for events. The Board agreed it is a great idea. Ellen will build it. Justin will ask his sister to provide the artwork.

Marcia Bogash was concerned about the many dogs that were at Springfest. Some of the animal vendors expressed concern. There are also times when visitors to the park let their dogs run, unleashed. Marcia moved that we institute a “no dogs allowed” policy during large events (Springfest, Egg Hunt). The motion was seconded by Justin Watts. Motion passed with majority vote. Bruce Smith abstained.

Bill Skinner made a motion to have nature center thank you cards printed. Marcia Bogash seconded. Motion passed. Cards will have logo and picture of center. Donna Davis will get the cards printed.

Bill Skinner reported on the water situation. Currently, the center has no water. There is a well that the center can use. A line would have to be run from the well to the center building site. The Town will be contacted requesting the line be installed.

Barb Trump thanked all for the cards and the Gift of Nature donation in memory of her father.

With no other business Chair Ellen Rugemer adjourned the meeting at 8:40PM. The next Parks Board meeting will be 7 PM on Monday, August 10, 2015, at Charlottes Quest Nature Center.

Minutes submitted by: Donna Davis, Secretary 7/15/15