

MINUTES OF THE MANCHESTER PARKS BOARD- 11 May 2015

The Manchester Parks Board held a business meeting at Charlottes Quest Nature Center on Monday, May 11, 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, Bill Skinner, Bruce Smith, and Donna Davis. Volunteer Tom Smith, Councilperson Debbie Howe and Pattycake were also in attendance. Guest attending: Lynne Sneeringer.

Minutes: A motion to approve the April 2015 meeting minutes was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report: Marcia Bogash reported costs associated with the Easter egg hunt were \$735.60, and donations during the event of \$13.00. The estimated income from Springfest is \$1,670.50, with estimated expenses of \$1,164.13, for an estimated profit is \$500. There are still some outstanding expense receipts. Springfest sponsorship monies received was \$900.00. Ellen Frey motioned to accept the Treasurers report. Seconded by Barb Trump and passed.

PR: Marcia Bogash reported that the Springfest and Easter egg hunt were both very successful, with very good advertising for both. Ellen Frey did a great job advertising the SpringFest. Marcia is receiving a lot of interest in the plant swamp from the community. Calls are coming in for reservations.

Naturalist Report: No official report from naturalist Sherry Fisher-Cole. However, Marcia Bogash reported that Sherry did have questions about the herb garden. Robin Fishpaw did a nice job sprucing up the herb garden. Barb Trump suggested that the Earth Care kids could help take care of the butterfly garden.

Programs: Discussion on the Easter egg hunt. Marcia Bogash suggested we spend less money on the event. We purchased new eggs for this year that added to the total cost. Possible suggestions to reduce costs include reducing the amount of candy in each egg, reducing the number of eggs, reducing the cost of the prizes.

SpringFest: Ellen Frey reported on the day and thanked all for their help. All vendors she talked to were happy. Marcia Bogash said many people came up to her and said they had a lot of fun. Total estimate of 750 to 800 people attending. Phil and Linda counted 490 that passed through the gate. However Marcia estimated 300 more entered through the fence by the fire department booth. Ellen Frey will email vendors with the attendance numbers to encourage them to participate next year. Ellen suggested bringing a first aid station to the event. The Fire Dept. told her to ask them to bring their first aid ambulance next year. Tim, the new MD DNR Forest Service Fire-wise guy offered to do more wildfire education programs for the nature center. The Board briefly discussed charging admission for Springfest. Discussion tabled for another meeting. Ellen Frey and Bruce Smith are on the committee for next year. Justin Watts organizes and runs the kids corral. Ellen asked for more Board members to help on the SpringFest committee for 2016.

Plant Swap: (Sunday May 31, 1 -3) Barb Trump said that set-up and white elephant pricing help is needed starting at 11:30. Ice tea, lemonade, water will be provided. She asked for Board members to bring some cookies and snacks.

Ask a Master Gardener: will be set up at postal park again on May 18 from 11 to 1. Handing out free seeds.

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

Other programs: Marcia Bogash proposed a photography contest in cooperation with the Town. Pictures must be taken in the Pine Valley Park property. Divide into age groups. Want to involve Town officials to act as the judges. Marcia would like to have the contest in the fall. Ellen Rugumer suggested every other year, on the off-year of the Memorial tree planting.

Facilities:

Telescope Building: Bill Skinner reported on estimates for a telescope shed. He said the Town will do the necessary grading. A wood platform will not work because it will vibrate. 8X10 ft. concrete pad: \$2,100. Retaining wall: \$400 to \$500. Shed: \$3,400. Estimated total of \$6,000. Marcia Bogash made a motion to commit the \$6,000 to construct the telescope shed. Seconded by Barb Trump. Barb asked about security. Bill said there will be no windows and the door will be secured. After brief discussion, the Board voted to commit up to \$6,000 for the telescope shed and construction. Motion passed.

Pond: no new information. Tom Smith reported families are using the pond for fishing.

Trails: Tom Smith reported trails in good shape. He witnessed much wildlife activity: a box turtle emerging; a fox family living under the shed; a squirrel fall out of a tree. The archeology dig on the 18th will be to finish up the unit that is in progress.

Memorial Bench: Bill Skinner said it is beautiful and is currently stored in the lower pavilion shed. Mrs. Poe would like to put it in the buffer planting area near the stream. The Board agreed.

Old Business:

Bocce: Vince DePalmer is concerned that Bocce is not raising as much funds as he would like. The Board briefly discussed raising the entry fee, possible discussion for 2016 season.

Springfest Drawing: 50/50: Lizzie Schumann. Birdseed: George Miller

With no other business Donna Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Ellen Frey seconded. Chair Ellen Rugemer adjourned the meeting at 8:34PM. The next Parks Board meeting will be 7 PM Monday, June 8, 2015 at Charlottes Quest Nature Center.

Minutes submitted by: Donna Davis, Secretary 8 June 2015