

MANCHESTER PARKS FOUNDATION, INC.
Board Meeting
September 14, 2009

Present: Sharon Hughes, Ellen Rugemer, Betty Smith, Donna Davis, Ellen Frey, Barbara Trump, Elsie McCleary, Bill Skinner

Volunteer: Tom Smith
Town of Manchester: Doug Myers

Meeting called to order at CQNC at 7:10 PM by President Sharon Hughes.

Minutes of the August meeting accepted as presented. Motion made by Elsie McCleary, seconded by Ellen Rugemer.

Secretary Report: No Report

Treasurers Report by Treasurer Ellen Rugemer (attached to Secretary copy for record): \$430.11 income, \$197.04 outflow, balance of \$5,188.37. There was a question about the monies received from the Bocce Ball tournament as two donors commented to Betty that their checks have not cleared yet. It was determined at the meeting that the checks had not yet cleared at the bank and thus were not include in the 7/1/09-7/31/09 Transaction report.

Report accepted as presented. Motion by Elsie McCleary, seconded by Ellen Frey.

Bocceball: \$340.00 was donated to the park from the Sept. 12-13 tournament. Tom and Betty reported that Vince expressed disappointment that the Parks Board did not have a team participating. There was discussion about making a concerted effort to organize a team for the next tournament.

By-Laws Amendments: No discussion

Public Relations: No Report

Naturalist: No Report

Master Plan: No discussion

Programs: Archeological Dig: Tom S. reported that a small but good crew helped on Thursday. The dig was rained out on Friday and Saturday. The holes have been filled in.

American Chestnuts: Bill will measure the trees for growth in October. Tom asked if the program is going to offer more trees again. Donna has not heard yet. There was some confusion as to what kind of trees were given to us (crosses vs. pure). Ellen R. suggested that the Board get more detailed info about the program.

Memory Grove planting and Volunteer Appreciation: Betty reviewed the plans for the planting locations. There will be 11 new trees and two replacement trees. Treemendous does not have any “free” trees to give this year so we will have to purchase the two replacement trees. Betty made a motion to buy the two trees, seconded by Ellen R. Ellen cut a check for Shemin Nursery for the two trees. Donna will place the order. Bill Skinner will pick the trees up at the nursery which will save the Board \$250.00. Even though Bill declined the offer, the Board feels that he should be reimbursed for gas.

Marsha has sent out the invitations. She is ordering veggie and cookie trays and buying drinks. Bill showed the Board a draft of the volunteer certificate he will create. Bill suggested calling Steve Israel to get the names of the helpers at the dig and send them invitations also.

Betty will contact the Town about digging the holes for the trees. Doug M. said that there is a pile of some nice topsoil available at Christmas Tree Park.

Tree City: Betty will talk to Kelly to see if the town is applying for Tree City again and will be sending a proclamation.

Springfest Committee: Ellen F. reported that the committee might send contact letters to the churches and local businesses to ask if they are interested in selling food or sponsoring the event. Elsie showed the Board a picture of a bluegrass band that is available, “Aspen Run”. They are very good and have a great following. They charge \$600.00. Barbara Trump is going to see if the 4-H talent club would like to perform. There will be no door prizes. Bill suggested a 50/50 raffle instead.

Facilities: Tom Smith reported that the big limb that fell off of the walnut tree at the corner of Memory Grove is still on the ground. The heavy rains washed a lot of gravel and mulch off of the paths and roads. There was two inches of water in the Nature Center building that Tom and Betty mopped up after the storm. The water channeled down the walkway and entered under the door. There is still rain damage to clean up on the trails where the mulch washed out.

Tom reported that a toner cartridge that was left on the shelf in the shed was knocked down and splattered everywhere. He asked that cartridges not be put in the sheds in the future.

Town Report: Doug Myers reported that the Town is looking at reductions to the Parks and Recreation budget to deal with budget shortfalls.

Eagle Scout Projects: Ellen R. reported that Kevin Utz is working on getting approval at the County level for the taxidermy display. Loren is also working toward approval at the troop level for the benches.

The ARC is cleaning the NC building two times/month and doing a nice job. Sherry suggested getting a feather duster to clean the mounts.

Pond Pavilion: Discussion about the placement of the proposed pavilion. George is concerned that it will be too close to his property line. Sharon had emailed the specs to Steve Miller and has not heard back yet. Betty suggested meeting with Steve M. on site to discuss location.

Bill reported that he is still working on coordinating scheduling the divers to remove the unwanted plant growth from the pond. Ellen warned that there are metal posts in the pond.

There was discussion of fixing the NC building floor. Betty suggested waiting until the flooding problem is rectified. Ellen R. suggested waiting until we see if the NC budget is to be cut before money is spent. It was decided to wait until the spring and then possible paint the floor.

Betty reported that the water pump is not holding a prime and that the trails need to be re-mulched. Ellen R. said she will talk to the scouts about having a work day on Oct 10th. Bill will look into getting some more wood chips dumped. Donna mentioned tapping into the larger local churches that may be looking for one-day volunteer service projects to get help re-mulching the trails.

Sharon has received several volunteer inquiries through email. One woman offered to give the center her Arbor Day seedlings. The Board agreed to accept the trees and suggested that Sherry's Earth Club kids might like to plant them.

Sharon requested that all Board members and volunteers email her with their name, address, phone and email info so she can update the member/volunteer list.

At 8:30 Betty motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Elsie.

Submitted:

Donna Davis