



City of Auburn
Recreation Department
Dawna LaBonte, Director
48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6611

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 4:30pm

Members Present: Jeremy Gatcomb, Misty Edgecomb, Haley Warden, and Paula Curtis-Everett

Absent, Scott Holland, Dawna LaBonte, and Tim Cogle

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for January and February were approved – Haley/ Paula; all in favor unanimous

Department Update:

- **Spring Programming** – No update. Paula asked the question about the Lobster Festival (asked specifically what it is, and how will it be done). This is not event that the Recreation Department puts on. Jennifer Boenig will also oversee this. Jeremy also said that registrations for summer camp has started and that he was not sure where track and field would be located this year (the track has been torn up as part of the new HS project).
- **Winter Fest** – No update, the committee did discuss the story boards but they have not been updated in months. Jeremy said that Jenn Boenig oversees those. The committee also discussed the fact that there really is not a “winter fest” with the city but that other places do have things on certain weekends that the city will help promote. Misty said that she thought it would be a great idea to have an actual winter fest from Hasty to PAL (snowshoe races, a pop-up restaurant, sledding etc). To make it feel like an actual festival.

New Business:

- **Dog Park** – There is a drawing of the dog park. Jeremy said that there is nothing new to report, but reviewed what was discussed at last month’s meeting (February).
- **Bonney Park Update** – Misty asked what the date is that colors need to be decided. Jeremy said that it would not be until the budget season. Jeremy did ask about adding additional swings. With the present drawing there is not enough room how it is currently drawn but they will review. Misty still feels like it would be better if the park were spread out a bit more.
- **Raymond Park Update** – Same scenario as Bonney Park.

Work in Progress:

- **Tot Lot Workgroup** – Misty said RFP is completed and in City Manager’s hand, it will go to council when they have their retreat. Paula asked if there was still going to be a trail added that goes down to Salmon Point. Misty confirmed that that was still in the works.
- **Lake Grove Park Workgroup** – Nothing new to report. Misty said that they really have heard nothing BUT it does have a playground. She did say that she was going to write another RFP for this park and turn it in. Jeremy said that he did discuss a splash pad and will follow-up at the next meeting. Playground consultant did say that he was not sure if \$100,000 was enough funds for this.
- **Mount Apatite** – Misty asked Paula how the snowshoeing event went (it went well). Jeremy is still working on a new bike trail (and repairs as well). Jeremy also said that PW is working on putting fund in the operating budget each year so that updates can be done.
- **LWCF** – Funding request was removed from the East Auburn Tennis Court renovation project and changing focus to the new PAL Center. John Blais will be asking for LWCF funding to help with the

“Auburn Recreation promotes a healthy lifestyle through various recreational activities focused on enhancing the well-being of all Auburn citizens.”

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new PAL Center. There are current city funds available to help with the renovation of the East Auburn Courts and LWCF funds are not needed to do the project.

- **PAL** – Still in the design stage of the new PAL Center.
- **Subdivision Projects** – Misty attended a planning board meeting, she said that it was intimidating. This will not fall under the city. None of the current new housing projects require funds or green space to be given to the city. Will continue to work with John on new projects.
- **Conservation Commission** – No updates
- **Playground Projects** – No updates

Other Business:

- **Community Center** - (North Auburn) – Paula asked about this location, she said that someone put dog waste bags and there are not any more left and someone also needed to empty the trash. Jeremy said that he spoke to Assistant City Manager and there is no plan yet. Derek Boulanger did say that there were a few things that the city is responsible to take care of but nothing specific yet for this location.
- **New Board Members** – The committee discussed that new members are needed for the board.
- **Sports Complex** – Misty asked if this project was completely dead. Jeremy said that there is nothing to report he hasn't heard anything. Misty did say that she is attending the next board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned, Misty/Paula; all in favor unanimous

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 12, 2023 – 4:30 pm and the Auburn Community Senior Center.