



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 November 8, 2023, at 4:30pm

**Members Present:** Jeremy Gatcomb, Misty Edgecomb, Haley Warden, and Julia Bergeron-Smith

**Guests Present:** Sara Parker

**Absent:** Scott Holland, Dawna LaBonte, and Tim Cogle

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes for July still need to be approved. November's will be approved in December.

**Department Update:**

- **Fall Programming/Winter Programming** – Sara said childcare was going strong and that vacation camp registration is open, she is doing a lot of work to promote that. The Halloween events were cancelled due to the events of October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Recreation staff handed out candy on Halloween night. PAL did not do the haunted house this year, but they also handed out candy on Halloween night. New Auburn did their annual candy event as well. There was a softball tournament Lewiston Strong being held on Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>. Twin City Thunder also did a fundraiser event for Lewiston Strong as well (approx. \$7,000.00 was raised). Basketball registration is open, unified basketball will be split into two age groups because several children have registered. Currently adult basketball is open for registrations as well. Cheering will not be offered (there is not a coach). There is someone that has offered to do a tumbling program. The gym floor is in the process of getting refinished with a new logo and new lighting. The recreation building is also in the process of getting a new HVAC system. Sara did discuss with the group that summer camp is still up in the air as far as having one central location due to the uncertainty of Walton School. Misty and Haley suggested that Sara go online and “book the school”.

**New Business:**

- **Welcome Julia** – Julia grew up in Lewiston and moved to Auburn. She started volunteering at the elections and heard about this committee and wanted to be a part of it. She currently works in Portland.
- **Review Parks Tour**- Misty mentioned that it would be amazing if someone from the city could attend the advisory meeting and review what is happening in the w/in the city. Jeremy said that they are creating angled parking at the beach (no word on the restrooms). The spray pad is still being discussed as well as the basketball courts (pickleball lines may go on the court as well). Anniversary Park was missed due to the weather and Raymond Park was also missed. Misty would like to come up with a plan for a dog park and have it up and running my next spring, Jeremy said that it was put on hold because the fields in that area are being used. Haley suggested that the group focus on Lake Auburn Community Center since there is not a lot that needs to be done there. \$10,000 left that the city will use to repair the building and they need to allot a certain amount of funds each year to update it.
- **Begin conversations about nominations for leadership positions, Chair and Co-Chair** - Tabled until the next meeting when Tim is present

# City of Auburn, Maine

## Recreation Department

Dawna, Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6611

### Work in Progress:

- **Tot Lot Workgroup** – Haley told the committee that the original plan was to turn it into a food forest and an outdoor education center. Misty said she and Haley attended a meeting but that they had to go back to the council in January and get the \$50,000 reapproved. Misty is getting support from other groups to also bring that to the council. This will be the largest food forest project when/if it is approved.
- **Lake Grove Park Workgroup** – See review parks tours above.
- **Bonney Park** – No update
- **LWCF** – No update
- **PAL** – No update
- **Subdivision Projects** – No update
- **Conservation Commission** – No updates
- **Playground Projects** – Lake Street School still need to be completed.

### Other Business:

- **Homework**- Review Park tour notes
- Jeremy told the group that the tree lighting will not be at Festival Plaza but that it will be at Anniversary Park. The committee discussed the issues w/having the tree lighting Anniversary Park.
  - No parking at Anniversary Park
  - Even with the small amount of parking that there is there, it is tough to get there due to the construction.
  - The New Auburn Social Club is not the best location to hold family events near
  - No tree at Festival Plaza (which is the central location of the city)
- Haley asked if they were moving forward with a skate park (this would be at Lake Grove Park)
- Jeremy said that Lake Auburn Community Center may be a good place for a dog park.
- Misty wants to figure out the rail to trails situation. Jeremy said that Jonathan LaBonte was working on that but has since been relocated to the Airport. He will follow up on that.
- Haley made a motion, Julia second for Misty to draft a letter to invite Brian Wood to the meeting in January. The committee will review the letter and draw up a list of questions.
- Jeremy notified the committee about the restructuring of Public Services. Scott has been moved to Director of Public Works. (engineering, facilities, and public works)

**Meeting was adjourned, Haley/Julia; all in favor unanimous.**

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 13, 2023 – 4:30 pm at the Senior Center