

**AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**  
**Meeting Minutes - Edited**  
**August 21, 2018 5:30 p.m.**  
**Auburn Senior Community Center.**

**ATTENDEES:** Councilor Leroy Walker co-chair, Councilor Belinda Gerry co-chair, Jan Biron, Frank Pippin, Larry Pelletier, Sheila Christakis, Tizz Crowley, Diana Pippin, Assistant City Manager Phil Crowell and Councilor Alfreda Fournier.

Co-chair Leroy Walker opened the meeting at 5:30p.m.

**Hot Dog Social scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup>:** Leroy reported the Hot Dog Social scheduled for Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. The date was too close to the scheduled August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting requested by the City Manager.

**Meeting scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup> re: Pettengill Park and Auburn Senior Community Center (ASCC):** Most interested members and guests had not been notified of this tentative planning meeting scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup> and there was too much confusion about the agenda specifics. Co-Chair Walker reported the planning meeting will be rescheduled to September (date to be determined.) Tizz Crowley suggested any planning meeting about the needs, use, and expansion plans for the Auburn Senior Community Center (ASCC) be schedule with at least a month notice so September 19<sup>th</sup> or later.

Tonight's agenda and the Age Friendly Meeting August 7, 2019 minutes were distributed.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2018 meeting:** Tizz Crowley made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Copies of the changes were provided to the Co-chairs and Secretary in paper and electronic forms. Second by Larry Pelletier. The motion passed unanimously. The amended minutes will be posted to the City website.

Co-chair Belinda Gerry questioned the item in the minutes noting the new facility would have a folding wall. Co-chair Leroy Walker stated the folding door was discussed at the time people met in the proposed facility. He suggested the 3 sentences regarding the folding wall be struck from the minutes. This change was included as a friendly amendment in the original motion.

Tizz Crowley suggested we create an Age-Friendly calendar for our meetings and events. Our notifications show up on the government calendar. The August link is down. Tizz suggested we have a promotion and publication person and remove our information from the recreation department's page.

Councilor Alfreda Fournier asked Co-chair Leroy Walker if our AARP Age-Friendly information is included on our calendar. He responded we haven't added AARP activities to our calendar at this point. Assistant City Manager, Phil Crowell, said he would like to work on the calendar issue. Assistant Manager Crowell feels an individual should be able to go into the website page and update it.

He raised the question about whether it makes sense to have our own Age Friendly page on the City web site rather than be under the recreation department page.

Alfreda Fournier asked that the Age Friendly calendar include the information for the AARP monthly Coffee Klatch. This activity is held every last Wednesday of each month (August 29th) at E. Claire and Pastries, located at 36 Chestnut Street, Lewiston, ME. E. Claire's is located in the Bates Mill in the former DaVinci's Restaurant.

Tizz Crowley excused herself at 5:47 p.m.

**Ideas and thoughts about the Auburn Senior Community Center for the September meeting:**

The meeting attendees toured the unfinished portion of the building so everyone could see the layout. Upon return, Co-chair Leroy Walker distributed a document entitled "Senior Center Facts" for everyone to read and think about how the facts relate to Auburn's Age Friendly Community. It contained some good information. Leroy also handed out a document entitled "Public Desire for a Senior Community Center". These article copies were prepared for the now canceled August 28th meeting.

Co-chair Leroy Walker stated he would like to rename the community center to the Age-Friendly Community Center (or something similar) instead of the Auburn Senior Community Center (ASCC). It just makes sense to connect the center with the Age-Friendly project. He also stated we need to stop calling the building the "Old Parks Garage".

The Recreation Department submitted a report which stated there was a lack of clarity for the Auburn Senior Community Center project. Our group needs to make the AF group desires more clear.

One member asked how long it will take to clear all vehicles, furniture, fixtures, and equipment from the whole building not just the current ASCC segment. Co-chair Leroy Walker responded that Former City Manager Howard Kroll had indicated the whole building should be available within 3 to 5 years (which began prior to the first renovation in 2018.) Leroy has asked Mr. Kroll if he has any documentation about the complete building use plan.

There is an expectation that the Age-Friendly group must get input from residents, establish short and long term cost projections and be prepared to present everything to the City Council. A regular Age Friendly Committee has not been established, but our group continues to work as the Mayor's Ad Hoc Age Friendly Committee. It is expected the City Council will establish a standing Age Friendly group or board. Our group is advised to outline the needs, duties, and responsibilities of such a committee. Some members feel our Ad Hoc status may be impeding the plans to renovate the full building. Co-chair Leroy Walker distributed the ASCC budget document showing \$95,000.00 in 2017-18. The total ASSC expenditures \$137,000.00. The council had to re-allocate money to authorize the \$137,000.00. The City Manager asked for a 2018-19 budget amount of \$75,000.00 for the ASCC kitchen renovation. The City Council approved \$45,000.00 plus \$5,000.00.

Leroy reported he found a hood system and fire suppression system worth \$10,000.00. The City purchased the entire system for \$3,000.00. Derek Belanger is working on having the hood system installed. The installation would be an additional cost. Included in the purchase were many other things that we will be able to use, to include commercial kitchen utilities and stainless steel prep tables, and under-counter refrigeration units for a salad bar and sandwich bar, and more.

Co-chair Leroy Walker also indicated the CIP bond funding showed \$95,000.00 for the ASCC. Leroy said the renovated side of the building is completed. Some members present felt there was not a need to have public meetings about the next phase of renovations. Some members present felt the project should be moving forward without having the need for public meetings.

Leroy stated he has asked the Mayor to put the Age Friendly Committee appointments on a council agenda. Assistant City Manager, Phil Crowell, stated he will get it on the agenda through the City Clerk, Sue Clements-Dallaire, CCM, CMC.

Leroy distributed a list of programs that could be offered at the Age-Friendly Center. The list was very comprehensive, but could still be added to.

Leroy reported he met with the New Auburn Senior Citizens group to inform them about the ASCC building renovation. The New Auburn Senior Citizens group reported the group would consider utilizing the ASCC Age-Friendly building if it could accommodate the size of their meetings. The New Auburn Senior Citizens would need a large space every Monday.

Co-chair Leroy Walker distributed a document entitled "A Peek at the Week". The document was sent from the Brunswick Seniors. It is a newsletter outlining everything going on for seniors each week for a month.

Co-chair Leroy Walker expressed a need to get a full-time senior programming director who would manage the ASCC. The senior programming director position duties would include the establishment of an events calendar, trips, rentals, meetings, etc. for the ASCC facility. A clear and comprehensive job description is vital. The ASCC facility should not necessarily be a "for profit" facility. It was suggested that the expectation is that the City needs to provide a center for the aging people in our community. People from other communities would be welcome to use the facility and participate in its programs. Leroy asked members to identify short and long term plan ideas for Age Friendly committee structure, responsibilities, and executive committee make-up. He also seeks input for the ASCC use and services. This information should be sent to Leroy for compilation and report to the Mayor and City Council.

Meeting adjournment: 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Biron