



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 April 10, 2024, at 4:30pm

Members Present: Jeremy Gatcomb, Misty Edgecomb, Haley Warden, Sara Parker, Dawna LaBonte, Tim Cogle, Julia Bergeron-Smith, and Philip Savignano

Absent:

Meeting Minutes: March's approved Haley/Tim; all in favor unanimous.

Department Update:

- Dawna informed the group that PAL has started at Rec (April 1st) there is an average of about 32 kids every day (more than anticipated). Anita's closet and Grab N' Go have been put on hold for about 2 weeks while they get settled into the Hasty building. The budget for Grab N' Go has been cut by the City Manager, but this has not been solidified by the council. Dawna also said that if there are people in need of food they are still receiving. Sara also said that although the Grab N Go has been put on hold and or may end that the PAL kids are still being fed and will continue to be fed.
- The new Recreation Specialist has started (Zachary Boyd) he is a youth sports specialist also an Auburn native.
- We currently have 4 Park Rangers (they will start at the beginning of June), there is still a need for 1 or 2 more.

Summer Camp:

- Sara and Dawna are meeting with the new principal at Walton the week of the 26th to discuss spaces and the needs of summer camp.
- There is a need for 6 more staff members, Sara is in the process of interviewing. The

New Business:

- Misty introduced Philip Savignano as the newest member of the committee.
 - Phil worked for Auburn Recreation Department as a Recreation Coordinator in the 70's, he also served on the Advisory Committee in the past.

Pettengill Park Building Tours:

- **Senior Center:**
 - Dawna took the committee through the senior center, she said that yes there are committees that use the building there have also been several rentals for

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all different types of events (wedding reception, baby showers, bridal showers, meetings, birthday parties).

- **Hasty**
 - Dawna took the committee through the Hasty building the offices, the gym, Auburn Adventures, and the PAL location (the purpose of that room was originally supposed to be used for a fitness room).

Work in Progress:

- **Dog Park & Walton School** – Julia thought it may be a good idea to have a list of questions (the same for each park) then everything would be consistent for all parks. She also asked if it was ok to store documents in Google docs. Misty said that is typically where they are stored.
- **Tot Lot**– Misty said the committee was supposed to be put on the council agenda with a plan to use the \$50,000.00 to refurbish Tot Lot (the ball had been dropped a bit on this). The group discussed the best plan is to wait until budget season is over and go back to council to have the money reapproved. Misty told Phil that the committee is partnering with the water district (they will be building trails, and the committee will be the trail heads).
- **PAL Center**– Work started Monday April 8th but needed to be stopped due to abatement once the abatement is completed then work on can continue and the building can be demoed.

Other Business:

- Misty said that her largest goal is to get the restrooms at Lake Grove Park up and running.
- Misty also raised the question on how to get the committee more involved to hear information about properties or land that can be acquired by the city for green space or parks.
- Misty also asked if there is a potential for someone that oversees Festival Plaza to attend a meeting and present the plans for it (what it will look like when it is redone).

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

Next meeting will be held Wednesday May 8, 2024 – 4:30pm at the Senior Center or first park depending on the weather (Raymond Street and Anniversary Park and the bench).