

RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2015
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDEES: Dave Gonyea, Ravi Sharma, Sue Patneaude, Dan Poisson, Dana Staples, Phil Savignano, Dave Sterling
ABSENT: Tizz Crowley, Eric Audette

- I. Minutes of March 11, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Sue Patneaude. Second by Phil Savignano. All in favor.
- II. Ingersoll Update
 - A. A second vote to approve the bond money for Ingersoll was taken at the last council meeting. A majority of the demolition work has been done and walls are being constructed. Bathrooms are being installed. Project is moving forward. Ravi will update the board as work is completed. Groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled at Noon on April 24th in front of the building to signify the beginning of the construction. The public is invited to be there.
 - B. Information was provided for those interested in reserving space in Ingersoll.
 - C. Facebook page for Ingersoll has been changed from Ingersoll Arena to Ingersoll Turf Facility. It is being updated on a regular basis. Response has been good and positive. We will start booking reservations right away. We have the reservation form and rental contract ready. The building should be open as of October. RFEI (Request for Expression of Interest) has been developed.
 - D. Advertising signs will be sold for the building. For consistency in the signs, the department will sell all the signs so that they are all the same. The vendor just has to provide the information they want on the sign.
 - E. Ravi has called Norris Ingersoll and invited him to be present for the groundbreaking. It is hoped that he will attend.
 - F. Tours will not be available because the facility is now a construction site and proper PPE would have to be worn for safety purposes.
- III. New Business
 - A. Public Service Funding Application
 1. Two council meetings have been held with regard to this item. People from the public and board members spoke in support of funding. The council seems to have some willingness to restore at least what the department was allocated last year. Between now and April 25th, people can send an email or letter to the city manager or the CDBG manager with comments.
 2. Sue reported that at the last council meeting, the CDBG director offered to fund \$25,000.00. Council members commented that they were in favor of funding the scholarship program. She is hoping that the council will allocate the remainder of the \$40,000.00 request.
 - B. Recreation Stakeholder Meeting
 1. Two meetings have taken place with the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Rec Department, etc. There isn't as much cross-over as was originally thought. Each entity is doing a variety of things without a lot of duplication. It was a good idea to research what is going on in the community for recreation.

2. The direction that recreation should go in for the next 5 years needs to be determined. What can Auburn do? The problem is the money it costs to do things. We need to look at what recreation will look like in 5 years. A resident asked Dave if he ever thought of putting a dome over the Gully area.

C. Parks & Recreation Month - July

1. Tizz asked for this to be on the agenda.
2. Programs scheduled for July include Rec Camp and track and field.

IV. Open

- A. Dave talked about ways to bring new recreational tourism to Auburn by taking a look at what the city will look like in 5 years. Could there be a clover of fields for softball and another one for baseball with lights and scoreboards? Could we partner with the high school, St. Dom's and CMCC? He questioned whether or not the advisory board should be responsible to bring these ideas forward. A plan needs to be put in place. What are the needs going to be in 5 years? What is our population going to be? Senior citizens? Children? Should there be more arts and culture?
 1. It was stated that there isn't a lot for adults to do in Auburn. There is a gap in ages where nothing, or very little, is being offered. There used to be a master plan of the city with a greenway from Pettengill Park through Brann's Hill and all the way to Mt. Apatite. That's gone now. The landscape has changed and we have to try to preserve what is left for open space. Facilities bring programs, programs don't bring facilities.
 2. Ingersoll has given the opportunity to the community that we didn't have before. Having superior facilities will bring more people to Auburn. The Norway Savings Bank Arena and Ingersoll are going to be part of the "draw" to the city. Dave stressed that the board should pursue a plan for the future so that if anyone asks what the plan is for the city, there will be a plan in place for future development.
 3. Turf and lights would give a facility much more versatility for usage all day into the evening. The benefits would affect the entire community, i.e. hotels, restaurants, etc.
 4. The town of Windham has come from a low to middle class families. Dave stated that the town kept building and updating the fields with lights and making improvements and now, the town has exceptional facilities and is no longer a low to moderate income community.
- B. Dana Staples brought up whether or not there will be an arena advisory board. He wondered if anyone had heard anything about what the arena is doing. Ravi stated that we may see that the arena will have a separate advisory board. Dana asked why hockey is not part of the city instead of being sponsored by separate organizations. Ravi responded that those organizations have been in existence for years and have never been affiliated with recreation departments.

V. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
 Jan Biron
 Administrative Assistant