

**RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 13, 2015**  
**6:30 P.M.**

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

**GUEST:** Leroy Walker

- I. Minutes of the April 8, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes as published, by Tizz Crowley. Second by Sue Patneaude. All in favor.
- II. Ingersoll Update
  - A. Construction continues. Block walls for bathrooms and janitor's closet have been installed. Plumbing has been stubbed out. Working on sprinkler system and electrical and some spots in the concrete that need attention before the turf goes down. Painting of the trusses and walls has begun. Construction is on schedule.
  - B. Committee Updates
    1. The First Auburn Senior Citizens are planning summer trips to the Araxine Sawyer Foundation Theater for special events, Range Pond State Park, and Songo River Queen.
- III. New Business
  - A. July is Parks & Recreation Month – This is a nationally declared celebration through NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association).
  - B. Tizz suggested that there be a proclamation that July is National Parks & Recreation Month, and make the declaration at the Auburn Community Concert Band concerts.
  - C. Phil suggested that something be put together to put into the paper or on Facebook.
  - D. The CDBG budget was passed the way it was submitted. The recreation department did not get approved for any funding for FY 16. Some of the council seemed to be committed to designating money to the department and in the end, everyone voted to put the budget through as presented. It was suggested that someone with grant writing abilities get involved with going over the criteria for the grant for next year. It was also suggested that the board begin now to get data regarding how many children will be turned away, at risk children, homeless, etc. It was stated that there is a question about whether or not the advisory board should have been present the night that the vote was taken and whether or not it would have made any difference.
    1. Strategy going forward:
      - a. Engage the advisory board for recommendations and review for scholarship funding for FY 16.
      - b. Residents need to be engaged to convince councilors' to support funding. Send email, contact by phone or send a letter.
      - c. Determine what changes should be looked at in order to meet the criteria as it exists.
      - d. There will be a price for not funding recreation. Children will be uninvolved and could be getting into trouble. There would be between 80 and 125 kids who are not involved. Ravi felt that our programs do meet some of the criteria of the grant.
      - e. Dan suggested writing a letter to the manager to encourage him to fund recreation scholarships, indicating that we are disappointed that we are no longer being funded. Sue was asked to craft a letter stating what we lost and to please help us make it up. Tizz cautioned the board that the recreation department has over \$200,000.00 in their accounts, and some of those funds may have to go toward scholarships for programs.

## IV. Program Updates

- A. Spring Running – 5 week program – teaches kids the basics of running – 21 enrolled
- B. Registrations are continuing for Summer Day Camp – Pre K-8. 115 enrolled. Begins on June 29<sup>th</sup> and ends on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Spring Soccer – Basic techniques of soccer are taught. 114 kids are registered.
- D. Tee Ball – Learning the basics of baseball. 52 players are registered.
- E. Mini Lacrosse Clinics – Basic skills are taught to the younger players.
- F. Youth Lacrosse – Grades 3 through 8. Practices and games. Skills and drills with practice and full game schedule. 86 registered
- G. Line Dancing – Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. – 10 weeks. Rina Cloutier is the instructor with 10 years of experience. 52 dancers have participated so far. This is a “Drop-In Program”. \$3.00 for residents and \$4.00 for non-residents.
- H. Parent & Me Craft Time – Children and their parent(s) attend and create an arts & crafts project together.
- I. Adult Pickleball – Tennis style sport. Similar to tennis, table tennis and badminton. Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. 503 people have participated to date. Can be played indoors and outdoors on a tennis court. Average age is over 40.
- J. Adult Softball – Practices have concluded and games have begun. Two leagues: Men’s and Co-Ed leagues. 29 teams (435 players) are registered in the Men’s League. There are 21 teams (315 players).
- K. Fishing Derbies – Two have been held – one for 3 to 8 yr. olds (66 kids) and the second for 9 to 15 year olds (28 kids). Had good weather for both weekends.
- L. Spring Fever Event – Washburn School, Auburn Police and Rec. Dept. Had a bike rodeo, bike inspection, obstacle course, food, bounce house, bike give-aways, helmet give-aways, etc. There were approximately 300 people present throughout the day.

## V. Pettengill Field Update

- A. Upper Pettengill is being renovated. Irrigation will be finished this week. Sod will go down next week. The field will be ready for play in mid-June.
- B. The baseball field has been ready to go for the past couple of weeks.
- C. The city manager has requested funding through CIP for Lower Pettengill Field renovations. It has not been approved by council yet.
- D. In the last few years, Norway has been built, Ingersoll is being renovated, Upper Pettengill is being renovated, a plan is being developed to renovate Lower Pettengill. There haven’t been many projects to improve facilities in many years. We don’t want to lose momentum. Dave would like to start thinking about a plan for a project for the City of Auburn for the near future. Leroy Walker stated that the East Auburn Men’s Club has been playing with the idea of donating Tribou Field. We should sit down and talk to them to see if we can get the field and some of the other acreage that is available.
- E. Dave suggested turning the Lakeview fields into a facility with a track around it, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, etc. This would bring a different group of people. It is a great area for both active and passive recreation opportunities. He would like to reach out to the public this summer to have people come in to talk to the board about how to build recreation/sports tourism, with ideas about what can be done. The college would host a community forum that would be sponsored by the Auburn Recreation and Special Events Advisory Board. Tizz moved that the recreation department co-sponsor with CMCC a series of community conversations related to recreation sports tourism. Second by Dana Staples.

## VI. Budget/Program Fund Balances

- A. Projected Revenue and Expenses
  - 1. Program revenue and expenses projections were distributed.

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2. Fund balance report of all programs as of 4/30/15.
3. The board is to look at the fund balances and decide what to do with the funds.
4. Tizz would like to see what the allocation of resources are to include direct and indirect costs, i.e. staff costs, facilities costs, equipment costs, etc. Ravi clarified that there are programs for which registration has just occurred and the expenses have not yet been paid. The balances in those accounts look very large at this point, but once the expenses of the programs have been spent, the balance will be much smaller. Dave suggested that whatever funds are paid out of recreation should be reinvested back into recreation so that the programs can be improved. There is really only a balance of about \$12,000.00.
5. Councilor Walker stated that he felt that by the department charging the public to use the fields that they already paid for through their taxes is double dipping. By diverting recreation funds to the scholarship fund would be triple dipping, in his opinion.
6. Tizz would like to collect restricted funds for recreation from the public.
7. In order to protect the fund balance, the board would like to develop a spreadsheet allocating actual costs. Dave will work with Ravi on that for the next meeting.

VII. Motion to adjourn by Tizz. Second by Phil. All in favor.