

City of Auburn, Maine

"Maine's City of Opportunity"

Recreation Department

**AUBURN RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2014
6:30 P.M.**

**ATTENDEES: Dave Gonyea, Ravi Sharma, Dana Staples, Dave Sterling, Phil Savignano
Eric Audette, Tizz Crowley and Dan Poisson**

GUEST: Leroy Walker

Motion by Tizz Crowley to table the minutes until some changes have been made. Seconded

Reports:

- Dave Sterling gave report about what can be done in facilities with rubber vs. turf.
- Ravi reported what the debt was on Ingersoll. There are 2 existing bonds. One large (expires in 2018) and one small (expires in 2019). This will be paid from the balance in the Ingersoll account.
- Senior Programming: Tizz reported that the First Auburn Seniors have decided to come into compliance with the city policies. There is a plan in place to create activities for the seniors, i.e. miniature golf tournament, lunch at the Hilton, and others.
- Special Events budget has \$20,000.00 in it and approximately \$10,000.00 is earmarked for July 4th activities.

Ingersoll:

- Dave reported that he did some research about turf vs. rubber vs. wood. Portland and Topsham are the closest turf facilities to us. He was told that this was a no-brainer. He suggested putting out a questionnaire to all of the possible user groups to see what they would like to do in a turf facility to see if there is enough interest to support the facility. The property report did not address user groups, only property.
- Tizz suggested having an information session and inviting groups and the general public to come and give their input to the work group. This needs to be done soon. The council has been waiting for quite some time to get a recommendation. Phil asked what uses are already in place for a hard floor and what uses are there for turf? There are several hard surface gyms in the city already, but there isn't a turf facility in existence. Lacrosse games are adjusted based on the size of the venue.
- Staff needs to be taken into consideration for maintenance and operation. This facility would need to have staff coverage based on usage of the facility. There are no guarantees that whatever floor we choose that the facility will pay for itself. Since we have a hard surface already, Ravi felt that we should go with a turf floor.

- Motion by Eric Audette to support a turf facility. Vote 5 to 2 in favor of turf.
- The group was asked to submit survey questions to Ravi.
- Informational meeting was discussed. It was decided that the location for the meeting would be the Hasty Community Center.
- Meeting date was discussed. Ravi will notify everyone of the date.

Athletic Fields Needs Assessment Report:

- The council was unhappy with the report stating that there was not enough information and didn't meet the needs of what the council asked for.
- The initial vote taken December 17, 2012, for \$35,000.00 was allocated for athletic field analysis, with \$17,500.00 for Phase I and \$17,500.00 for Phase II. This item was sent back to the advisory board for their input. The report was criticized. It was suggested that Phase II not be given to Wright Pierce, but to re-scope it and put it back out to bid. Ravi stated that elements of the comp plan could be addressed in Phase II. He would like to have information about whether or not to keep all the fields, get rid of certain fields, renovate a field, relocate a field, etc.
- Leroy Walker made the point that Cleveland Field was donated to the city and could not be sold. It would have to be made into a permanent green space.
- Discussion ensued relative to the money allocated to Phase II. There was a suggestion to give the Phase II money to the department so that some of the repairs could be done on the fields. It was also suggested that Sports Fields be asked to do a field assessment. Ravi suggested that the group put together the scope for Phase II and then re-bid the project. The group decided not to re-bid Phase II.
- Next step is to get estimates to repair each of the facilities in the Phase I report. Sports Fields could do the assessment of the fields and give estimates. The amount of \$17,500.00 to be given to recreation for the repairs. Ravi will get the estimates and bring them back to the Board.

Open Session:

- Auburn Suburban Little League/Mount Apatite update was given by Phil Savignano. Option to buy out the National Guard Zone to have access to Mount Apatite. Waiting for the federal government to come in and assess the land. The board will not have a role in this decision until something actually happens.
- The Auburn Municipal Beach is now to be utilized as a park with no swimming allowed. It will be open from dawn to dusk.
- A neighborhood advisory group is being established in East Auburn.
- A question was raised as to whether there is a code or check list that exists to apply specific standards to fields and facilities, i.e walkways, wheel chair accessibility, etc.
- There was discussion about what fields would be included, i.e. school fields.

Retreat on Friday, June 27th from 10:00 to 1:00.

Adjournment.