

RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 2014
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDEES: Dave Gonyea, Ravi Sharma, Tizz Crowley, Dana Staples, Sue Patneau, Dan Poisson, Dave Sterling and Howard Kroll.

ABSENT: Phil Savignano

I. Minutes Reviewed and accepted (with requested changes.)

II. Committee Updates

- A. Winter Festival** planning has been ongoing, committee has been meeting every two weeks to work on the schedule of activities.
1. Winter Festival committee members have been reaching out to others to get commitment for the activities.
 2. Promotion to begin the month before the festival.
 3. Digital copies and hard copies of the festival brochure will be available. The brochure design is done at no cost.
 4. Users will also be promoting the events through their posts on Facebook. Tizz Crowley asked about putting something on the city website referring people to the rec department Facebook page for the winter festival information.
 5. Dates: February 6 – 8, 2015.
- B. Holiday parade:** Took place on December 3rd. The weather cooperated. About 29 organizations participated in the parade, with the route beginning at Great Falls Plaza, to lower Turner Street to Mechanics Row and then Main Street, pausing to light the Auburn tree, right onto Court Street and into Lewiston, ending at Kennedy Park. Slight delay in Lewiston, but time was made up during the parade. The whole event went very smoothly. The holiday parade planning committee wanted to highlight December holidays of all origins on a calendar which was available to the public on Lewistonmaine.gov/holidayla.
- C. Senior Citizens – Sue Patneau**
1. Request to open First Auburn Senior Citizen trips to anyone in Auburn. Sue met with Ravi to discuss this. The concern was that if the trip is planned and doesn't fill up, it would be the responsibility of the seniors program to pay for the no-shows. If it is a recreation excursion, the costs don't come out of the seniors' program funds.
 2. The First Auburn Senior Citizen group agreed to the age of 55 and over for membership. The age of 50 was felt to be too young.
 3. The last FASC meeting was cancelled because of the weather. The group would like to have Mr. Manoian come to talk about the St. Louis bells.
 4. Sue will be contacting Stephen King to try to get his support for the housing of the bells.
 5. FASC holiday party is at the Green Ladle. The city did not carry over the FASC fund balance from last fiscal year. We will have to do our annual due diligence to make sure that our balance is brought forward every year.
- D. Special Events – Tizz Crowley**
1. Arts & Humanities – May special event. Tizz spoke to Alan Manoian. Ravi produced a memo from the last Advisory Board meeting that was forwarded to the city manager. Tizz asked Ravi to share memos with Advisory Board members.

III. Ingersoll

A. Fire Marshall Approval for Preliminary Building Design

1. Fire Marshall has signed off on a design that would accommodate 7 sq. ft. per person in a repurposed Ingersoll. The building meets the standard guideline.
2. Cordjia was able to finish up the bid documents and designs and put a project bid package together – 500+/- pages.
3. Project has been put out to bid with a due date of January 8th, 2015.
4. A Mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2014. Question and answer period will be held.

5. Question was asked about having to do the repurposing project as two phases or if we can do it all at the same time. It is preferred that it be done all at once. More money would have to be allocated from somewhere in order to do it all at once.
6. The Ingersoll renovation may be impacted by the Norway Savings Bank Arena's financial situation.
7. Norway Savings Bank Arena numbers will be out soon. There was a negative balance in October. Payments on the arena were deferred for 9 months, but the payments are added at the back end and interest has to be paid on those deferred payments. One hundred percent of TIFFF has been turned back to the owner. That money would normally have been committed to the general fund to pay for street repairs, fire, police, plowing, etc.
8. Recreation staff has been working on a business plan and forecast financials for Ingersoll, hoping to have a draft ready around the holidays for Advisory Board review and input.
9. Advisory Board members were encouraged to contact council members to urge them to allocate the total amount needed to renovate Ingersoll – from unallocated funds – so that the entire project could be completed at the same time instead of phases.

IV. Programming Update

A. Basketball – Youth and Adult

1. Pre-K-K Basketball Instruction – program was added 2 or 3 years ago. Held on Sunday mornings. Participants learn the basics of the game. There were 54 players registered.
2. Youth Basketball – Grades 1 – 12. Practices have been going on for the past couple of weeks. Games beginning soon. There were 259 participants registered this year. More younger kids and fewer high school kids registered this year than last. Schedules are available online: www.teamsideline.com/auburnme.

B. Adult basketball has begun with 24 teams, and 12 players per team. There are about 288 men's league players. There are 6 women's teams with 12 players per team or 72 players.

C. Pickleball – Held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for those 40 and over. It is a cross between tennis and ping pong, volleying a ball back and forth with a wooden paddle. Approximately 200 people have participated. Cost is \$2.00 for residents and \$3.00 for non-residents. Staff is looking at possibly offering an evening time slot.

D. Youth Open Gym

1. Kids come in Mondays through Fridays from 2:30 to 4:15 for Auburn students, high school and under. Gets kids out of the house and provides them with exercise.

E. Adult Dodgeball will be coming back this spring. Program is offered for adults and is co-ed.

F. Youth indoor soccer will begin on Sunday mornings starting the second weekend of January. Ages 4 to 7.

V. Open

A. Fields Assessment

1. Upper Pettengill softball field has been completely renovated, retaining wall, drainage, etc. It is anticipated that the field will be ready for play in the spring. The field will be re-sodded and infield depths will be corrected. The goal was to return the field to a respectable standard.
2. List needs for the fields that need attention, i.e. Walton Field. Put this item on the next agenda.
3. Dave suggested asking school administration representative to be present at the next meeting. It was suggested to extend an invitation through Katie, the school superintendent.

B. Tizz asked that Ravi's reports be posted on the city website as part of our recreation news where people sign up for e-alerts.

VI. Next meeting – January 14, 2015

VII. Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully submitted
 Jan Biron
 Administrative Assistant