



**AUBURN PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
07/10/13  
6:30 P.M.**

**ATTENDEES: Eric Audette, Paul Douglass, Tom Nadeau, Sue Patneau, Dan Poisson,  
and Ravi Sharma, Director**

- Minutes of the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Motion by Paul Douglass to approve the minutes. Second by Sue Patneau. All in favor
- New Members Introduced  
Tom Nadeau – Former owner of Nadeau’s Refrigeration. Currently owns T & T Fitness and Nutrition.

Sue Patneau – Retired. Former director of several non-profit organizations, which include AWAP and United Way.

- Resignations Leroy Walker  
Phil Savignano  
Replacements will be appointed by the City Council.  
A press release has been put out for all board vacancies.

- Meeting Venue Day and Time

Sue Patneau asked what the benefits would be to having our meetings recorded. It was felt that the council wanted the meetings recorded so that they could watch them for information purposes.

Eric Audette said that having the meetings at the Hasty Community Center felt more comfortable and informal. Tom Nadeau agreed.

Tom Nadeau made a motion that the advisory board meetings will be held at the Hasty Community Center on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Eric Audette. All in favor 5-0. Meetings will continue to be recorded and then will be burned to a CD.

Ravi Sharma will put this information into a document and forward it to the city to formalize it.

- Lewiston-Auburn Public Health Committee – Tobacco Free Ordinance

Board members were asked to express their impressions/likes/dislikes about the ordinance as it is presented.

Sue Patneau stated that the ordinance was going to fail because of a lack of enforceability. The ordinance doesn't inform smokers where they CAN smoke, only where they can't. There are no provisions for smokers, i.e. shelters, ash cans, etc. Telling smokers where they can't smoke needs to be offset by telling them where they CAN smoke.

Ravi Sharma does not like the language under Section i. He feels that the word "electronic nicotine devices" should be removed. Also, sections (b) and (c) are already stated clearly in state law, so they should be removed, as local ordinances do not supersede state law.

The ordinance must have a two-pronged approach: self-policing and voluntary compliance.

Paul Douglass felt that the ordinance is too broad. Each location needs to be set up so that there are designated areas where smokers can go to smoke. The State of Maine taxes people who purchase cigarettes, so designated areas should be made available for them. Ash cans and clear signage needs to be provided. If an area is too small to have a designated area, the board should tell us why. He also stated that there should be an exemption for someone in a private vehicle, driving through a non-smoking area, ie. a parking lot. There is a question as to how private vehicles should be addressed. It was felt that our concerns about smoking in a private vehicle should be brought forward to the committee.

Cemeteries should be exempt from the ordinance, however, litter could be a problem.

Discussion ensued regarding scenarios where it was felt that smokers should be given a designated smoking area. Under section (a) i., the words "including but not limited to" should be removed.

There was also discussion regarding the exemption of parking lots, stating that the ordinance should not go that far, however, litter could be a problem if smoking is allowed.

Notifications: Staff can inform the public that there is no smoking in certain areas. Signage should be used to inform the public that smoking is prohibited.

There should be a period of education prior to fines being assessed. The board expressed no exceptions to the fine schedule.

It was stated that it will be impossible to monitor Mt. Apatite, and, because the park is so large, ash cans should be placed in specific areas on the trail system where smoking is permitted.

A request was made to print the names of the parks and cemeteries rather than just giving their addresses to make them easier to identify.

- Double Surface Arena

Ravi reported that the steel is mostly erected on the new arena. They are now hanging siding panels. The roof will be started on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, followed by the installation of the suspended concrete floor on the mezzanine. Underground conduit is all run, the plumbing stub-outs are finished. The siding on the building is brown. The contractor chose that color so it would match with the Auburn Mall. At least one sheet of ice will be ready for the opening of hockey season. The project is running on time.

The arena manager has been hired. His name is Josh McDonald and he is from Levant, Maine. He has worked with a variety of hockey teams and has considerable experience in the hockey industry.

It was reported that the arena has already sold \$55,000.00 worth of ad contracts to date. The pro forma projected \$32,000.00 for ads, so we are ahead of budget projections.

Ravi reported that St. Dom's signed a contract today (7/10/13) with the new arena. The other high schools using the new arena are Leavitt, Poland/Gray-New Gloucester and ELHS.

The concession will have a grill and hood system. The main concession area is upstairs with the possibility of a satellite concession on the lower level.

No naming rights have been decided yet.

- Ingersoll Arena Year-End Financials:

Revenues	\$436,577.10
Expenses	\$385,344.03
Net Profit	<u>\$ 51,243.07</u>

The arena is self-supporting. No tax dollars are used to operate any part of it.

The July 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting workshop will discuss merging public works, engineering and parks & recreation, becoming the Public Services Department.

Winter Festival will be held this coming winter. Anyone is welcome on the planning committee. Volunteers are need.

Electing a chair person for the advisory board was brought up. It was felt that it wasn't necessary at this time.

- Ordinance Review

Increasing the members of the board would make it easier to get a quorum for meetings.

The purpose of the board is not well defined. Sue put together her thoughts to define the board, a quorum, officers/job descriptions, ex-officio members, a rolling roster to keep track of members' terms, etc.

A recreation master plan was discussed. A master plan will eventually be developed, but it is a lengthy process to plan recreation programs and facilities for the next 15-20 years.

Ravi asked board members to email their thoughts to him regarding the ordinance. Sue would like to see the purpose and authority of the board specified, and also spell out what "quorum" means. At the present time, it is not defined.

Eric Audette is not in favor of having officers. He feels that this makes things too formal. He likes having an informal setting.

- Auburn Municipal Beach

The beach was opened on July 2<sup>nd</sup> **as a park only**. Signs prohibiting swimming are posted at the park. The city council required that the beach water would be tested on a daily basis for Enterococci and E. Coli and must have 30 consecutive days of clean water results before swimming would be allowed. A goose round-up was done again. During the season, the beach will be open at no charge on Tuesdays through Sundays, closed on Mondays. No lifeguards on duty. Signs prohibiting swimming are posted. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the beach will close for the season.

- Open

Future Agenda Items:

Public Services Department – Ravi will see if manager will be able to attend.

Senior Citizens

Dog Park

Suggestions for repurposing of the Ingersoll Arena

- Motion to adjourn by Sue Patneau. Second by Eric Audette. All in favor.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted

Jan Biron