



City of Auburn, Maine

Recreation Department

Sabrina Best, Director

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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 6:30pm

City Hall, Community Room

Members Present: Suzanne Roy, Paula-Curtis Everett, Mike Thurston, Marc Gosselin, Dana Staples, Belinda Gerry, Tim Cogle, Leroy Walker. **Absent:** Rick Martel and Misty Edgecomb

1. Approval of April Meeting Minutes (Mike Thurston/Tim Cogle) Unanimous.

2. Work in Progress

a. Recreation and Sport Facilities Budget and status: Marc Gosselin provided an update about the current status of next year's budget. He informed the board that the first reading was presented with the ability for the council to ask questions or provide feedback. There will be additional readings and presentations to address any questions brought forth by council. The board was also informed that some details and conversations about the budget occurred during executive session, which limited some budget detail for the entire group. Anticipated completion of the budget will be the end of the June.

b. Tobacco Ordinance for the Recreation and Sport Facilities Department: Board members were provided the latest draft of the Tobacco Ordinance pertaining to parks and recreation to take home and review. Marc Gosselin will supply an electric copy of the ordinance. Board was asked to provide any feedback on the proposed ordinance before moving to the next steps. Feedback of the ordinance will take place during the June meeting.

c. Park project ideas: Marc Gosselin was going to re-connect with Sabrina on park projects submitted by the board. Will appear on a future agenda when there is an update on the progress.

3. Work Completed since last meeting

a. Update – Great Falls Comic Expo: The Great Falls Comic Expo occurred on May 4 and May 5 at the Norway Savings Bank Arena. An estimated 3,000 visitors participated in the festivities. These visitors came from all over the state and some from out of state. The highlight of the event showcased vehicles from the Transformer movies. It was shared that owner and operator of the show plans on returning and hosting the event next year in 2020.

b. Update – Country Concert: The first concert was held at the Norway Savings Bank Arena and it was considered a huge success. A little over 2,600 people attended the country concert organized by 99.9 The Wolf and LA Harley. Because it was free concert there was questions about the revenue model for the event. The NSBA collected all the parking fees, percentage of the alcohol sales and

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sponsorship dollars from two (2) specific partners (Pepsi and Spectrum Medical Group). The success would not have been possible without the great collaboration from all departments and volunteers.

4. Sub Committee reports

a. Mt. Apatite Sub Committee (Rick): Rick was not able to attend the meeting but provided a short update. NEMBA group trail signs have been printed and planning is ongoing to get them put up soon. Additional discussions ongoing about trail usage guidelines and maintenance. There are plans to get input from other groups that are not represented such as miners and development of mining guidelines for the park. A primary focus overall is on improving signage at the park, including new kiosks when possible. Fundraising for those is a significant part of the conversations. Lastly, the “Friends of Mount Apatite” social media groups are LIVE on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. A final logo for the group has not been chosen yet. Designs are in progress.

5. New Business

a. Summer and Fall Recreation brochure: Board was made aware that the new summer and fall recreation brochure was created by staff and is available to the general public

b. Memorial Day Celebration: Memorial Day Celebration is scheduled to happen on May 26 and 27th. On May 26th there is scheduled to be a Civil War Reenactment Camp. On May 27th there is parade and art show scheduled for the residents of Auburn. A total of 33 floats have confirmed to participate. Parade will start at 10 am in New Auburn and ends in Memorial Park in Lewiston for a ceremony to begin immediately after the completion of the parade. There are three (3) main viewing areas (Vincent Square, Edwards Little Park (CLT) and Festival Plaza). The Company A, 3rd Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry Camp will move in on Sunday and be open to the public to view. There are 23 artists signed up for the art show in Edwards Little Park. Three (3) confirmed food truck vendors. Working with Channel 6 to lock in coverage and live broadcast.

c. USM LA Campus – Occupational Therapy Program: USM’s Occupational Therapy in Lewiston hosts around 40 Master’s students each year. While many are commuters, there are a few who are local to Lewiston/Auburn, one of whom reached out to us to see if there are any opportunities for the students to assist seniors at the Auburn Senior Community Center as part of their required fieldwork. Here are some of the ideas that have resulted from a couple brainstorming meetings:

- **Surveys** – the students may be able to help with age-friendly surveys in many ways. Ideas include creating and distributing the surveys, collecting and entering data, and tabulating the data for the final report. USM has a staff member, Bernadette Kroon, has been heavily involved in the South Portland Senior Survey which focuses on the World Health Organization’s eight domains of livability of an age friendly city. She can share this survey and offer advice for an Auburn survey.

- **Individual Needs Assessments and Screenings** – currently students perform needs assessments on one another in practice environment. By partnering with Auburn seniors, the students would gain real-life experience while providing seniors with an assessment of their abilities and helping them with areas of limitation.
- **Car Fit** – this educational program is specifically geared toward older adults and checks how well a vehicle “fits” the driver.
- **Matter of Balance Class** – this 8-week class is designed to reduce fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults.
- **Kitchen Safety Classes** – there is potential to utilize the new senior center kitchen to practice kitchen safety and identify limitations individuals may have that keep them from preparing nutritious food.
- **Senior Trip Buddy** – an OT student could join some of the senior trips to help individuals overcome obstacles found in the real world that prevent them from engaging socially and remaining active.

d. *Meeting Location (June, July and August)*: A short discussion was held to discuss future meetings for June, July, and August. June is to be held at City Hall. July and August are TBD.

7. Adjourn

****Motion:** to **Adjorn** by Mike Thurston/Second by Suzanne Roy, unanimous