

City of Auburn, Maine

Recreation Department

Sabrina Best, Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:30pm

Room 204, Auburn City Hall

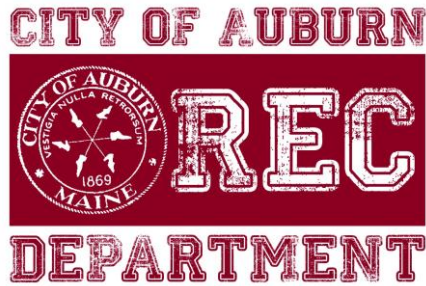
Members Present: Sabrina Best, Dana Staples, Tim Cogle, Rick Martel, Tim Cogle Paula-Curtis Everett, and Suzanne Roy

Public Present: Leroy Walker and Megan Norwood

1. Approval of November Minutes: **Motion to accept Dana Staples/Rick Martel, Unanimous.**

2. Work in Progress

- a) *Proposed North River Road Development:* Dana gave a recap of last meeting with the developers and the process in which the Advisory Board needs to vote on recommendations to send to the planning board at tonight's meeting in order for this development to be voted on at the next Planning Board Meeting. At the last meeting there seemed to be consensus that the board supported the amount being provided by the developer in lieu of recreation space on site and opened it up for further discussion. Rick was looking for clarification on the idea of being able to use the funds to help develop a City owned Parcel around the corner into outdoor recreation to help re-draw the boundary lines from non-compliant LWCF grants. Sabrina reported that she had indeed reached out to the LWCF and yes this idea falls in line with satisfying the re-drawing boundary lines. The next steps would be to review the old LWCF application to determine the square footage of land that was lost when Ingersoll become and indoor facility and the Auburn Senior Community Center (formerly the Parks Garage) was built. Once that figure was determined there was a formula to establish the 'value' of the land lost and that value would need to be matched on a new undeveloped outdoor recreation parcel in order to fully become compliant with the re-drawing of boundary lines. Once the City can complete the re-drawing of the boundary lines there were still some other issues that need to be fixed (i.e. East Auburn Tennis Courts need to be revitalized). If the City is able to provide and show a good faith effort in becoming compliant then our 'red mark' would be removed and we would be eligible to start applying for LWCF and RTF grants. Megan, City of Auburn's City Planner, clarified how the amount \$34,000 was determined. The way the ordinance is written the developer would be required to provide 4 acres for recreational/open space needs of future tenants. The parcel is only 3 acres, so there was no room on site to provided the recommended amount. The developer was able to provide 1 acre total on site for open space which would include a private trail along the river. In lieu of the rest the developer is offering to provide \$34,000 to the city to be used towards recreational/open space needs. The Planning board needs a recommendation from the Parks and Advisory Board on what they feel are the recreational needs for this subdivision and how do they feel they can best be met, how adequate are the existing facilities that are available, and thoughts on what the \$34,000 could



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be used for. There was discussion on accepting the in-lieu amount with the agreement of the City being able to have an easement in the future if existing walking paths or trails such as the Riverwalk can be connected to the private trail on the property.

MOTION: “To accept the developers in-lieu payment to satisfy the recreation/open space needs of the proposed project, with the option to have an easement to connect the private trail on site to a bigger walking path/trail in the future.” Tim/Dana; all in favor.

Dana directed the group to the three questions on the agenda to help provide guidance to the planning board.

1. What are the recreational needs of the subdivision residents? After some discussion there was a consensus on the recreation needs for the future residents of this project to include, but not limited to; safe walking areas, trails, open space, playgrounds, and connection to existing trail/walking paths such as the Riverwalk.
2. How Adequate are the existing facilities that are available? It appears that this parcel is an isolated lot with limited direct access to recreation/open space amenities. There is a small private trail on site along with a small open space that would not satisfy the tenants recreational needs. There was discussion on if the City owned parcel around the corner that is undeveloped could potentially be converted into a park and help serve that need. Paula and Suzanne did a short site visit and felt that there was not enough parking and the large open areas were a distance down the drive onto the parcel. The closest location for future tenants to find recreational amenities would be Chestnut and Union Street Park, North River Road Boat Launch in the immediate area and then Municipal Beach and Pettengill Park on the outskirts. The board felt the access to these existing locations to be inadequate due to the lack of sidewalks and Center Street presenting an unsafe and dangerous route.
3. Taking these items into consideration the board would recommend the in-lieu funding be used as follows:
 - A. Connect existing walking trails or paths to/towards the North River Road subdivision property via the Riverwalk. (This could include Design, Easements, Acquire or develop land).
 - B. Improve or create a park within proximity of the North River Road subdivision property. (This could mean develop the parcel around the corner into a park, or put towards upgrades at a park nearby).

The board recommends that in 2022, if option A has not been accomplished or is no longer a viable option to transition to option B.

- b) 2019-2020 CIP Projects: Sue started off with asking if there was more specific details for the CIP, example the Chestnut request is just a list of items. Are all of those being addressed? Is this just a wish list? Sabrina explained that yes all items listed are being addressed within the project but are broken out in phases pending the CIP item is continued funded. During Department presentations that is when staff explains the project

and details on what will be addressed and how much etc. **Sabrina will send out the submitted FY21 CIP once completed.**

- c) First Auburn Seniors Letter on Resident vs. Non-Resident fees: Tabled
- d) Mount Apatite: Rick reported the focus for the FOMA group right now is taking over the snowshoe event during Winterfest from ALT. Rick is working on setting up a planning meeting next week since the next scheduled meeting date for FOMA is after Winterfest Weekend.

3. New Business/Open Session for the Public

- a) Suzanne and Paula reported that since last meeting they have met with Parks Subcommittee member Tizz Crowley. Currently this subcommittee is under Conservation Commission with no one else serving on it. They talked about if this was the right location for the subcommittee since the Conservation Commission has no access to funding for needed project and improvements in parks. Dana clarified that the CC does have a staff representative on it from Public Works. Sabrina did report that at the recent City Council meeting there was an announcement of a Mayor Ad Hoc committee being charged to evaluate all the committees the City currently has and out together a recommendation on where there is a duplication of effort and if any could be dissolved. Suzanne and Paula agreed to work with the Parks Subcommittee in creating one list of recommendation on improvements to provide to the council before the budget process begins. **This item will be placed on the next agenda.**
- b) There was a request to invite a City Councilor to the next meeting, Sabrina will reach out to Katie Boss and invite to the February meeting.

4. Department Update – Tabled

6. Next Meeting

- a) February 12, 2020 6:30 pm at City Hall Room 204 (Sabrina is on vacation)
- b) Items for next meeting
 - a. Sabrina will send out updated FY21 CIP once it is completed.
 - b. Continue conversations on the Parks improvement list.

7. Adjourn

****Motion: to Adjourn by Rick Martel/Tim Cougle unanimous**