



City of Auburn
Recreation Department
Dawna LaBonte, Director
48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210
www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6611

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 13, 2023, at 4:30pm

Members Present: Jeremy Gatcomb, Misty Edgecomb, Haley Warden, and Tim Cogle

Guests Present: Sara Parker

Absent: Julia Bergeron-Smith, and Dawna LaBonte

Meeting Minutes: July's approved Haley/Tim; all in favor unanimous.

November's approved Haley/Tim; all in favor unanimous.

Department Update:

- **Winter Programming** - Sara Explained to the group that Recreation was testing out a new layout for the brochure as it is very tough seasonal due to the way that registrations are listed, and programs are started (see below). On December 16th Pizza and PJ's will be held at the Senior Center. There were 50 registration spots all were filled and there are 47 people on the wait list. Unified starts in January.
- **Winter Festival** - Jeremy told the group that Winter Festival is held by individual companies since there is a large New Years event. Misty said if the city were to take it back that she feels it should be held in all the city parks.
- **Spring Programming** -

New Business:

- **Nominations for Leadership Positions, Chair & Co-Chair** – The group stated they wanted Misty to continue to be the chair. Misty does believe there is a need for a co-chair. The group renominated Misty for chair, Haley/Tim; all in favor unanimous. The group nominated Haley for co-chair Misty/Tim; all in favor unanimous.
- **Winter Planning for Summer Tours** - Going to get put into "work in progress." This will be one park at a time. Misty was asking about the timeline on the playground at Bonney Park. Jeremy said that there are no funds available at this time. Scott will be going to Jill Eastman or Kelsey Earle (not sure who will be taking this over next FY) to ask what is left. Haley was also asking about Raymond Park.

Work in Progress:

- **Tot Lot Update** – Misty will be creating and presenting a presentation to the City Council in January so they can reallocate the \$50,000.00. She is not exactly sure of the actual date in January, but she will report back.
- **Lake Grove Park Update** – Misty asked if the basketball hoop would be in next year's plans. Jeremy said he would find out. Misty thought about opening the current restrooms, Jeremy said they are in very, very bad shape. Misty asked about the potential of having a business sponsor the new restrooms.
- **Bonney Park** – No update
- **Dog Park** – No update

Other Business:

- There was a lengthy discussion about how the Recreation Department should have the brochure. The group thought possibly have the Senior Center have their own would be ideal. Haley said she would prefer to have the brochure two times a year. The group also discussed when to add summer camp

"Auburn Recreation promotes a healthy lifestyle through various recreational activities focused on enhancing the well-being of all Auburn citizens."

City of Auburn, Maine

Recreation Department

Dawna, Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6611

and Haley said to add it to both brochures. Jeremy asked if there was a different price that should be listed for the weekends of renting Hasty in the sample that Sara brought to the meeting.

- Misty asked about the meetings being held on Wednesday mornings at the Senior Center and stated that there has been some concern about how they must rush out at 8:30AM. She suggested that the staff be a bit more polite when dealing with people that rent the space.
- Robbie Berube will now be taking over the rentals at Ingersoll.
 - All current active user groups were contacted via e-mail.
 - This has been updated on all websites and when people contact the city hall switchboard to reserve time the switchboard operator is aware.
- Misty asked if there was an update about Auburn Suburban. Jeremy said that there has been no update. Haley did notify the group that the dug outs have been updated a bit.
- Misty asked about the maintenance of the playgrounds. Jeremy said that there is someone from Public Works that will go and check them out.
- The group discussed the tree lighting in Anniversary Park, and how they were unsure how it would be moving forward (very hard to see). Jeremy said more than likely this this will remain the location since the tree is planted in the ground. The city did ask for a larger “donated tree”, but none were offered. Tim said that once the road gets repaired and the repair work is finished it should be clearer and more able to see.

Meeting was adjourned, Haley/Tim; all in favor unanimous.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 10, 2024 – 4:30pm at the Senior Center