



City of Auburn, Maine

Recreation Department

Jeremy Gatcomb Interim Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 8th at 6:30pm at Senior Center

Members Present: Scott Holland, Rick Martel, Misty Edgecomb, Haley Warden, Suzanne Roy, Timothy Cogle, Paula Curtis Everett, Jeremy Gatcomb

Meeting Minutes: November – Haley made a motion and Tim seconded; all were in favor.

Department Update – Jeremy gave an update about being promoted to Recreation Director and Dawna Daigle to Deputy Director. Jeremy said they have weathered the storm with Sabrina leaving and Cy Wilkinson who was the maintenance tech leaving. Covid had been a big deal and hit about the same time. All 3 buildings have been running non-stop and they had to adjust with running programs to cleaning the building. Dawna and I must sit down now and figure out who is doing what with the recent changes. We are headed in a good direction. Jeremy went over some of numbers for the Basketball program and talked about the Ingersoll Turf with indoor softball starting. Covid has affected the programs. He also said there are a lot of travel teams as well, so turnout is low so far for softball.

New Business/Open Session for Public- No public attended.

Work in Progress:

- **Tot Lot workgroup** – Haley updated that the Bates College students had their presentation on Monday. They did a great job. They are looking at 6 classrooms such as an Amphitheatre, Introductory room, Outdoor lab style room, etc. They will send out their presentation and it will be sent out to board members after. At the city council meeting on Monday, they approved the \$50,000 from the ARPA funds for the TOT Lot study. We won't be meeting again until January. Will can be reassigned as the Bates Students did his assignment. Suzanne asked if an Invite had been sent out so the board members could have watched if they wanted. Misti and Haley thought something had been sent out to the Tot Lot work group. The whole presentation was recorded though and will be available to watch.
- **Lake Grove Park workgroup** – Suzanne said she had emailed Leroy Walker for updates. He said he had not heard a thing. Rick spoke up and said they approved \$150,000 at the Council meeting Monday night. Suzanne asked what plan they were going with because



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there were several. Scott spoke up and said he heard it was for a Water Quality Initiative. The City Manager spoke up and said Staff will do there best to get this moving.

- **Festival Plaza workgroup** – Tim mentioned there hasn't been any meetings or updates on this at this point.
- **Mt. Apatite** – Rick said we did have a meeting and it was a very light attendance. We did talk about signage especially the emergency signs. I did reach out to Scott about the snowmobile club and cleaning up around that. We did talk about bike things and the land purchase proposal which he did send something out. He believes the land on Minot Ave is not for sale anymore. We talked about alternate entrances for when the National Guard entrance does close. Misti asked when this going to happen? It is up in the air for now because the Guard was supposed to get a grant to do the site work on Stevens Mills site for the new baseball fields, but they didn't get it. Rick thinks it will be at least a couple years out. Jeremy heard it would be 2023 if we are lucky.
- **Auburn Suburban** – Updated in above Paragraph.
- **LWCF**- Misti asked if Scott and Jeremy could take this over as Sabrina did all these updates. Misti asked if Scott could do the parks side and Jeremy the Recreation side. Jeremy mentioned that John Blais from Economic and Community department had been working with Sabrina on these. Jeremy also said he use to work under Doug Beck and sees no problem working with him to get the updates. Scott said we would look into it and have an update at next meeting.
- **PAL** – There is nothing in concrete yet. Jeremy has not really been involved but knows it isn't dead. Misti mentioned that maybe somebody from the board might be able to help or knows somebody that wants to be involved. Jeremy said we all know there needs to be an expansion with all the programs that come out of there. Scott reached out to Rita and she said it is definitely on hold and it will be a while. They are working through things.
- **Playground Projects** – Scott updated the board that the contract with New England Recreation Group should be signed soon. There was a little confusion that it might have to go back to Council for a final approval. After getting conformation from the City Mangers office, we should be good to sign the contract with installation in the Spring. Scott also mentioned that the groundwork will be done by Public Works and has put it on the Schedule for Spring. Suzanne asked if the latest presentation included the small

changes that were talked about. Misti said we should check to be sure. Scott will check with Sabrina.

- **Subdivision Projects-** Scott reached out to Eric Cousins and the Subdivisions are a little different for as green spaces. North River Rd project is up in the air with an employee leaving the Department. Suzanne thought there would be trail to the Higgins Boat launch. Scott will get more clarification. Mt Auburn Ave project did have some discussion about Green Space in the Plan Review Committee. Tim remembers talk about a pool and Jeremy heard something about a trail.
- **Conservation Commission** – Misti said there is no update, but she has been in contact with Sam. There is something he would like to work with us on. There will be a proper meeting scheduled.
- **On the Horizon-** Misti said we have started talking about dog Parks. We will continue talking about this. The council has been trying to add dog parks to all of our Projects so if we can get one planned, they will stop doing that. Misti asked Scott about last meeting with the conversation about Lake View being a dog park. Jeremy said we aren't quite there because of the need of the softball and baseball needs. Jeremy said we have talked about this location for the years as being a dog Park. He said it is the worst softball field we have. Misti asked Scott about getting a map so we can see the whole area and maybe we find some new spots for the softball/baseball fields, and we can clean up some of the LWCF issues. Jeremy mentioned there is a possibility once the Auburn Suburban Fields are done of using one of them for the adult teams and that would take the need away for Lakeview. Scott had spoken to Rosemary for the map and will have it for next meeting. Scott mentioned Mt Apatite and the trash that was around it. We did pick up the furniture and he will talk with the snowmobile club about getting the rest of the wood and junk around the building. Scott did reach out to Sabrina about the building and the talk of the Welcome Center. She said it was planned in the next 3-5 years. Suzanne asked if the next few meetings could be held by zoom. The possibility of bad weather and the holidays it would make it easier. Misti said she would like to have the map and work on that for next meeting and asked if we could have it in person for the next one and then zoom meetings after that. Everybody was in favor of that. Jeremy brought up the New Years Auburn and it is on track hoping it is good weather. He went over who the bands would be and Fireworks at 10. Misti asked what will be dropped during the Celebration. Things will start at 6pm and go until midnight.

Meeting was adjourned 7:45pm Rick made the motion, Haley Seconded, all were in favor

Next meeting will be held Wednesday January 12th at 6:30pm at Senior Center