



City of Auburn
Recreation Department
Dawna LaBonte', Director
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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 12, 2025, at 4:30pm (Senior Center)

Members Present: Misty Edgecomb, Haley Warden, Dawna Labonte, Jeremy Gatcomb, Corey Kinnan, Julia Bergeron-Smith, Elisabeth Collier, and Tim Cogle

Absent: Philip Savignano and Sara Parker

Excuse absences Misty/Corey; all in favor unanimous

Meeting Minutes: February minutes approved Haley/Julia all in favor unanimous

Department Update:

- **Updated Program & Facility Pricing:** Dawna told the committee that she met with the City Fees Committee, and they encouraged her to investigate increasing pricing of all our facility & field rentals. Dawna said that she is open to discussion on this during the park visits. The Fees Committee also brought up that our Recreation program pricing is too low- Dawna would love to get this committee's insight. She said she tries to keep programs affordable but also wants to ensure we have both quality and quantity.
- **Staffing Updates:** Jenna Payne is our new Age Friendly Recreation Specialist; she started this week- she will be focusing on senior based programs with more community involvement. She has already created bonds with many of the seniors and she is excited to get out into the community to see what she can do to engage the seniors in more hands-on experiences.
- **Warming/Cooling Center Policy (Hasty/ASCC):** Dawna provided the current policy for the committee to review. She reviewed the main points and gave each member a copy to review at their leisure.
- **Spring/Summer Brochure:** Dawna has provided the Spring/Summer Brochure to the Communications Department on Monday March 10th for posting online. She will e-mail it directly to Misty and Haley to distribute it once it is posted. She also shared a behind the scenes copy for review.
- **Budget/CIP Process:** Dawna said that the Recreation Department had no additional cuts from the City Manager regarding the budget. This will be presented to the Council for review on Monday March 17th. The City Manager did cut Recreation's initial field improvement requests. Dawna said this may cause the Recreation Department to pause any outside rentals this Spring/Summer to save the field for our programming.

New Business/Open Session for Public:

- **SCORP Planning:**
 - Misty gave the committee members a survey for the 2025 Maine Outdoor Recreation provider. Each committee member can complete it at their leisure.

- **Sustainability Workshop Review:**

- Misty attended the workshop (4 hours)
 - Lunch was provided for attendees
 - Tables were set up for people to learn the sustainable things that Auburn is doing to
 - Tour of Edward Little (heated by geothermal)
 - LRTC has a firefighting course
 - Composting pilot program at Sherwood Heights School
 - Public Works also had a table to explain what they are doing
 - Solar panels are also going to be placed on Norway Savings Bank Arena

Work in Progress:

- **Food Forest Planning Work Group:**

- Misty asked Dawna to confirm with Phil if Whiting's Farm location is a viable option and if it is, can the committee tour it. Currently at a standstill until the location is confirmed.

- **Prep for Summer Parks Tour:**

- Cleveland (Drive By)
- Playgrounds Pettengill Park (April)
- Lake Auburn Community Center (May)
- River Walk and West Pitch (June)
- Mt Apatite ~ Small Road (July)
- East Auburn School ~ Pickleball Courts (August)
- Lake View (September) The committee will come up with a plan for a dog park as well
- PAL Center (October)

Other Business:

- Corey asked if the Auburn Recreation Senior Center provided rides for seniors should they want to spend time at events etc. Dawna said that the city is partnering with the LATC bus if people needed a ride. She also said that a staff member can also assist with calling to schedule rides with this.
- Misty said she will add the National Fitness Campaign to the next agenda. Corey said he still didn't feel like it was all inclusive. Misty said that the committee could do a site visit when they tour West Pitch. Dawna also said that the mayor is also interested in this initiative as well

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

Next meeting will be held Wednesday April 9, 2025 – 4:30 pm – Senior Center