



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 March 13, 2024, at 4:30pm

Members Present: Jeremy Gatcomb, Misty Edgecomb, Haley Warden, Sara Parker, Dawna LaBonte, Tim Cogle, and Julia Bergeron-Smith

Absent:

Meeting Minutes: February's approved Haley/Julia; all in favor unanimous.

Department Update:

- **Department Update** – Dawna went through what she presented to the council on Monday March 11th. Dawna told the committee that PAL was moving to Hasty April 1st while the new building is being built (she will also need to build the staff when the new building is up). Grab N' Go will be running out of the pond building at Pettengill Park (we currently serve over 400 people). The other large ticket item was that the recreation department will take on ALL the porta potty expenses. Dawna also informed the committee that we have hired a new Recreation Specialist that will start Monday March 16th. She said that there has been an increase from 896 to 925 youth sport participants and the need for this position is necessary. We are in the process of hiring Park Rangers (these positions are ARPA funded).
 - **Adult Sports** -. There are over 4,000 that participate in adult sports (currently trying to get kick ball tournaments set up), 1,400 pickle ball participants.
 - **Seniors** – Currently there are 29 senior programs with over 2,400 participants.
- **Summer Camp** - Meeting w/Wayne Door (principal of Walton) to go over the space that is needed for summer camp. Custodians will work 5:30-7:30 (after camp leaves) to clean. Registration has been open for 2 weeks and we are already ½ full for all camps. Approx. 20 families have obtained scholarships.

New Business:

- **Park Tours** –
 - **Pettengill Park and Pond Building** – Tour in April
 - **Raymond Street and Anniversary Park (and the bench)** - Can be done in the same meeting since they are so close to each other – Tour in May
 - **Lake Grove Park** – Tour in June
 - Misty also wants to see the bathrooms (keys will be needed) Tennis/pickle ball courts behind East Auburn School will be added to the park tours.
 - **Tot Lot** – Tour in July
 - **Dog Park** – Tour in August
 - **Lake Auburn** – Tour in September
 - **PAL** – Tour in October
- **CIP Projects** - Dawna told the committee that the only CIP projects that were left under Recreation is the portable restroom (mobile restroom). All other CIPS have been moved to other departments.

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

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The wall padding for Pettengill Park ballfield was moved to Public Works. Rebuild the back garage at Hasty (there are no walls) and add an equipment check out area was moved to Facilities.

- **Mentorship Program** – Misty said that sending a staff member to the BNI meeting to possibly get more mentors or funds donated.
- The committee decided that they would take the month of December off from holding meetings.
 - **Haley/Julia; all in favor unanimous**

Work in Progress:

- **Tot Lot** - Misty received a letter of support from the Ag Committee. She will reach out to Sam at the Conservation committee.
- **Lake Grove** – CIP for repairs to basketball courts, parking lot and adding a new parking lot. There will be something posted about the times the park is open. There will also be a concrete cornhole, people will have to bring their own toss bags (unless the rangers are there)
- **Dog Park** – Looks like Gracelawn is the leading place for the dog park. The group also said that Moulton would be a good place for a second location. Julia did ask about parking at Moulton, she said there needed to be a place for people to park that were not walking there.
- **Bonney Park**– No splash pads this year.
- **PAL Center**– The fund raiser was held on February 15th , unknown amount raised
- **Walton School** – Misty asked since the school is not closing and staying open for another year if there should still be a plan in place should they decide to close it for the City to obtain that location.

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

Next meeting will be held Wednesday April 10, 2024 – 4:30pm at the Senior Center or first park depending on the weather.