



City of Auburn, Maine

Recreation Department

Jeremy Gatcomb, Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 6:30pm Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Jeremy Gatcomb, Misty Edgecomb, Rick Martel, and Suzanne Roy

Absent: Paula Curtis-Everett, Scott Holland, Haley Warden, and Tim Cogle

Meeting Minutes: February & March – Minute approval tabled until next meeting (May) not enough for quorum

Susan Roy asked if Recreation still offered summer camp. Jeremy explained to the committee that summer camp was still offered and that it was the largest program numbers wise. She asked if there were day trips. Jeremy confirmed that there is a minimum of 2 day trips each week (beach day, and an age-appropriate trip). All trips are included in the price of the registration. The only time a donation is asked of is when they do the end of the year camp carnival (typically that is only a \$2.00 donation).

Confirmed with Sara Perry, Recreation Specialist, 4/14/22 that there are 4 locations:

Hasty Community Center ~ Pre-k- kindergarten in classroom, 1st-2nd grades in gym

Park Ave ~ 3rd-4th grades

Walton ~ 5th -6th grades

Ingersoll Turf Facility ~ Teen extreme camp

Susan also asked if there was a fishing derby. Jeremy said that the fishing derby will be held on Saturday May 21st, and that the pond here at Hasty is stocked with fish. A donation from the Auburn Exchange Club helps us purchase the fish for the pond. We buy the fish from a fishery up north. Confirmed with Sara Perry, Recreation Specialist, 4/14/22 the actual date is Saturday May 28th.

Susan talked about walking the ballfields on Gracelawn Road and how she thought they looked good. Jeremy said that there was a landfill on those fields, and they are not in great shape. Misty said that they were going to possibly have a dog park there but that there was no shade at all. When the committee walks the parks, they will think of ideas for this location. Susan mentioned maybe a skating park in the winter, and she also thought of making a garden up there utilizing planter boxes..

Department Update:

- **Budget** - Jeremy reported that there are no changes yet from what was submitted to council (council was just given the budget on 4/5/22). He will have the updated budget, CIP as well as the 5-year proposed CIP plan info for the May meeting.

New Business:

- **Begin Park Tours** - Due to weather the tours will start next meeting



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Work in Progress:

- **Tot Lot Workgroup** - Misty said there has not been a meeting in a bit but that they are waiting to get an RFP for the design. Once this happens Misty is hoping that some of the pine trees can get cut down and the soil can dry out. She is also hoping that the parking lot can get repaired.
- **Lake Grove Park** - Susan said the bottom line is if the council did not vote to get this moving next week it would not happen this summer. Beach sands need to get cleaned up and the playground equipment isn't going in until August (Jill Eastman still needs to sign the contract). She thought maybe recreation could put another tent up so that people could sit under there. Jeremy told the committee that the cookout that was held in August will be moved to June (the weather was too hot). He also said that there would be 2 tents put up so that people could enjoy the park. Susan said if the beach can't get completed fast enough maybe some canoes could be purchased so that people could still recreate there. Misty said that the water fountain that was going to be put there was purely for decoration it didn't do anything to aerate the water. Misty is going to send an e-mail and set up a meeting before the next council meeting. Misty thought having Chris or Erica attend the next council meeting would be a good idea. Susan said the have City Manager speak to the Auburn Water District to have the contractors that do the mitigation of the ducks to include the lake (need to have them mitigated so that people can use it).
- **Mount Apatite Update** - Work group hasn't met since January. Still need to follow up on trail signs. There is a concern that the mining location signs were put up and some of them are gone (not sure if they fell on the ground, will go back and check). Will Libby's crew is still going to do clean up on the trail. Bike trails are still going to be expanded work will be done this summer.
- **PAL** – Jeremy told the committee that the Easter event was pushed to Friday April 15th 4:00pm-6:00pm (Auburn Exchange club is involved they do all the cooking). Bike rodeo is back in the Gully on the courts Thursday, May 5th. Todd Whitcomb (Auburn teacher, he is also on the Soccer Maine Board of Directors) will start the Futsal program for 6 weeks (a free program). Members are still skyrocketing for the Grab N Go food program. Last quarter, Jan-March 311 people were served (adding the Lake Auburn Townhouse possibly 80-100 more people). There are two staff members and one volunteer that take care of that program. The largest challenge is funding for this, food prices have increased significantly.
- **Festival Plaza Workgroup** - No updates. Possibly tabled for ARPA funds in favor of PAL
- **LWCF Update** - No update
- **Playground Projects** - No update
- **Subdivision Projects** – New project on 555 Court St (60 Unit housing development).

- **Conservation Commission Updates** - No update

Misty said that Moulton Park needed to be addressed and added to the list of work in progress and then suggested that possibly adding another work group. The thought of maybe having another committee member lead it and residence that live or have a business attend. Jeremy mentioned to the committee that a new Auburn resident reached out to him about a skate park (he's currently in Virginia currently building a skate park). Misty wants to invite him here she thinks it would be a great idea to have all outside companies (skate park and pump track) attend an advisory board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned,

Next meeting will be held Wednesday May 11, 2022 – 6:30 pm – Begin Park Tours