



## 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, May 11, 2022, at 6:30pm

**Members Present:** Jeremy Gatcomb, Misty Edgecomb, Rick Martel, Paula Curtis-Everett, Scott Holland, Suzanne Roy and Tim Cogle. Maureen O'Brien of 42 Winter Street attended as a guest

**Absent:** Haley Warden

**Meeting Minutes:** February, March & April minutes were approved– Rick/Scott; all in favor

### **Department Update:**

- **Annual Report** - Jeremy reported no update, the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the proposed budget will happen on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Will report more at next advisory meeting
- **Summer Programming** - Planning stages for summer programs is still in the works. Adult softball started last week, lacrosse has been going for a little bit now (started in April). 200 kids for summer camp, expect more as it gets closer. Most staff that worked summer camp last year are returning. Jeremy told the group that Tot Lot is not a summer camp location but can be rented.

### **New Business:**

- **Begin Park Tours** – The advisory board park tours began May 11<sup>th</sup> at Lake Grove Park, beach. The board decided that Lakeview will be added to the list of park tours as well. Next month, June, (weather pending Drummond St, Moulton St, Bonney and Edward Little. Raymond park is close and can possibly be added as well. Pettengill Park will be visited in October. Suzanne asked what the goal is for visiting the parks? Misty told the board the goal is looking at what the parks are doing well right now, are they living up to their potential, do they need anything major? Maureen asked if there is currently a list of things that already need to be completed, Scott will look in files and send to the group. Raymond Park was a top priority that needed work. Scott reported that there is money that needs to be spent in that park specifically. Suzanne said that safety needed to be priority fencing, cross walk. Scott said the thought that there was a cross walk painted there last year.
- **Lake Grove** – Suzanne spoke w/Chris Curtis from Auburn Water and Sewer. Chris informed Suzanne that testing cannot really be completed by them because they are not accredited and they could be liable if they were to give out incorrect info regarding E.coli. Chris said that Lab A&L are reliable and reputable (results typically come back w/in 2 days) the cost is \$25.00 to \$35.00 depending on what you are asking to be tested. Jeremy will reach out Rebecca from A&L to set up a meeting regarding testing. Scott told Jeremy that he also has been working w/A&L



## City of Auburn, Maine

Recreation Department

Jeremy Gatcomb, Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

[www.auburnmaine.gov](http://www.auburnmaine.gov) | 207.333.6601

for the school's water faucets (lead) so he could also assist if needed. Misty expressed concerns because she was told a couple of years ago that bacteria and mitigation issues needed to be addressed before the beach opened but that is not happening. Tim suggested contacting Wasamski Springs in Westbrook as they have a bubbler in the middle of the man-made pond. Needs to be roped off, bathrooms cannot be used as they need a ton of work, porta potties will be put out there. Playground will be done in September. Suzanne asked about canoes, paddle boats or kayaks being out there for the public to use. Jeremy said that they just had a Zoom meeting w/a company new to Maine that has online reservation for kayaks, paddles and life jackets, customers would go online, pay, get a QR code, rack would be unlocked anything that is not returned would be charged to credit card. Paula asked where the lifeguards were coming from. Jeremy had a meeting May 11<sup>th</sup> with Lighthouse (they do all lifeguard training for YMCA) they stated there is a training on Memorial Day weekend currently there is a national shortage of lifeguards. Suzanne said that there should be a sign posted this year swim at own risk. Jeremy thought it would be a good idea to post the sign this year and work on getting lifeguards for 2023. He will report back to the group if he can find 5 or 6 people. If this year doesn't work possibly collaborate with Nicole from Lewiston Rec, Steve from the YMCA, and YWCA next year to be sure that people will get enough hours (share time 10 hours each location).

- **Moulton Park** – Tim stated that there have been approx. 45 police incidents at that location. The City at their expense is going to clean the property which is a homeless encampment mostly on private property (owned by the Land Trusts). Public Works is going in from Washington Street with an excavator and a thumb, load it in a truck and haul it off. There was talk about moving the skating park to Bonney Park, but Jeremy said there was also talk about moving the playground from Bonney to Edward Little Park so that it was more visible. Misty asked if Moulton Park could become a dog park? The area would have to be fenced in and parking would need to be added.
- **Lakeview Fields** - Jeremy heard (nothing official) that all the things there should not be, benches, fencing, back stops etc. because they penetrated the clay cap (this location was a city dump). Tim thought maybe putting huge concrete planters would work (nothing would have to be put in the ground), Scott will research and report back to the board.

### Work in Progress:

- **Mount Apatite Update** – Rick reported that the bike club is building a new trail, there is good progress being made. Frank from Busy Town Bike is setting up a bike repair location. The open action for the committee is resolve or plan the emergency sign location system (hasn't been designed yet). Signs in the mining area have been taken down. 9 were put up, 4 have been taken down. Marc Gosselin, Executive Director, Community Partnerships & Sport Tourism, met with

the National Guard, they are starting their groundwork for the new Auburn Suburban Baseball Softball field complex in 2024.

- **Playground Projects** – See above

Maureen O'Brien (guest) spoke to her neighbors, and they are concerned about the PAL expansion. They do not feel that it is right for the neighborhood. They are concerned about more crime in that area and closing the street. Maureen feels that a new pool should be put in for the kids in Auburn.

**Meeting was adjourned, Rick/Suzanne; all in favor unanimous**

Next meeting will be held Wednesday June 8, 2022 @ 6:30 pm – Park tours continue