



## City of Auburn, Maine

Recreation Department

Jeremy Gatcomb, Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

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### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 6:30pm

**Members Present:** Jeremy Gatcomb, Misty Edgecomb, Rick Martel, Scott Holland, Suzanne Roy, Tim Cogle and Haley Warden

**Absent:** Paula Curtis-Everett

**Meeting Minutes:** May minutes were approved– Rick/Tim all in favor. There were no minutes for June

#### **Department Update:**

- **Annual Report** – Nothing reported
- **Summer Programming** - Nothing reported

#### **New Business:**

- **Drummond Street Park** – Haley stated the park looks better than it did last year. Could potentially paint the table or get a new one also need a new bench. The new wood chips make a big difference. Scott said they are trying to do that to all the parks. One of the slides had been tagged with graffiti and Scott was going to see if they could find paint similar in color to cover it over. There seems to be bamboo growing over the fence. Jeremy said it is nearly impossible to remove and get rid of it all. Misty thought it would be great if there could be new gates installed, she also said that the trees seem to be getting big enough for shade. She also said that she wished the park could have a basketball hoop and thought the park may be too small. Tim thought maybe having it in Moulton Park would be a better idea. Misty asked some people from the neighborhood what they would like to see for new/additional pieces of equipment. Multiple people said a couple baby swings as well as an ADA accessible swing. The committee agreed those would be great additions to add to the park in future years.
- **Edward Little Park** – The city used this park for two years; Memorial Day parade went by there. There were food trucks and a craft fair it was a perfect set up (easy up tents were easy to stake in the ground). Jeremy said that Sabrina had a vision that a hybrid pump track and splash pad would be at Edward Little Park because it was the largest space. Rick said to do that you would have to lose all the trees. Committee didn't think that was good idea. Haley thought leaving it the way it was would be best because it is the only park in town that had green. Tim said outside exercise equipment would be great to have. Misty asked about playground equipment. Jeremy said it was priority level 3 (2-3 years away). Pre-covid the quote was approx. \$150,000



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now looking at around \$300,000. The committee talked about picnic tables. Scott said they would need to be secured.

- **Bonney Park** – Jeremy stated that the playground was not in too bad of shape. Misty noticed there were no swings anywhere on the Bonney Park playground site. This was something all members agreed needs to be addressed during and future upgrades. Having a combo of normal, baby and ADA style swings would be a great addition with there being plenty of room. Haley said that there was a piece of the playground that burned her daughter’s arm because it was hot from the sun. Misty said that the playground equipment looked like it could be repainted. Suzanne asked if there was ADA equipment. Jeremy said no but moving forward if there were new equipment that there should be. The committee agreed that this location would be a great place for a few splash pads, new playground structure, swings and adult fitness equipment. Misty also said Chestnut Street Park could potentially be the location for the pump track and skate park since it is still located downtown. Committee thought the Bonney Park location would be too small for a pump track and would take a lot of site work to prep. The retaining walls are in great condition and would hate to have them removed. Committee once again talked about needing picnic tables in this park. Large enough to have several units.
- **Moulton Park** – Misty thought having an intown dog park would be a great idea. Jeremy said the mayor still wants to have the pump track at this location (Bonnie Park would not be large enough). Tim and Rick mentioned you could add parking in the park, where current skate park is located, to help with accessibility. Fencing would need to be installed and space is big enough to have a large and small dog park separated, similar to Lewiston’s dog park. Additional lighting would need to be added for safety reasons.

### Work in Progress:

- **Lake Grove** – Jeremy had a meeting yesterday with Derek Boulanger, City Manager and Assistant City Manager, they are tasking Jeremy and Derek to investigate potentially invest ARPA funds in other activities (canoes, kayaks, peddle boats, paddles, and life jackets). The Park Ranger will go and open the gates in the morning, this will all be free of charge and honor system. Jeremy said while they were there approx. 15-20 people were there. Misty asked if could use include funds to get lifeguard back boards, knowing that they will hopefully get used next year. Kerri is assisting in getting those supplies. Jeremy said that there is hope in the future to have more canopies/pergolas, installed and to have actual gas grills. Jeremy, Scott, and Derek are meeting about updating the restrooms as well (having real bathrooms). Suzanne said that the beach workgroup has been recording the water testing and that there was only one day last year that the water quality was above where it should be. She feels like Ken should be contacted again. Misty thinks that the committee should reach out to other communities to find

out who they are using Suzanne said they have that information she will forward to Misty. Misty will also reach out to Wassamki Springs (man-made lake). Jeremy said they have done 8 weeks of water testing on the beach, of the 8, 4 of them have had a failing tests scores (failing is 235 parts per million) the worst day was about 2 weeks ago (it was 900). They tested Monday 7/11 and the level was only 61 (another test will be completed tomorrow 7/14 due to the discrepancy).

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

Next meeting will be held Wednesday August 10, 2022 @ 6:30 pm – Park tours continue Lake View Park