



City of Auburn, Maine

Recreation Department

Sabrina Best, Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:30pm

Tot Lot Park

Members Present: Sabrina Best, Tim Cogle, Rick Martel, Misty Edgecomb, and Suzanne Roy

Absent: Paula Curtis-Everett and Mike Thurston

Members of the Public: Carl Lalemand

1. Approval of June Minutes: Motion to accept Rick Martel/Misty Edgecomb, Unanimous.

2. Tot Lot Site Walk – the group toured the facility and reviewed the recommendations made by the Parks Subcommittee in 2018:

- Fountain looks great but it does not work.
- This park needs to be marketed for events. It is " great space for that.
- Needs new wood chips and sand in the sand box. And paint for the playground equipment. The lion needs to be painted and working.
- Spot before the retaining wall of the water is soft, needs to be addressed, someone could twist an ankle.
- BBQ pits need to be cleaned out and working or taken out. Tree stumps need to be taken out.
- Playground equipment needs to be checked for safety. Old oil tank removed.

The Board discussed a variety of topics and ideas.

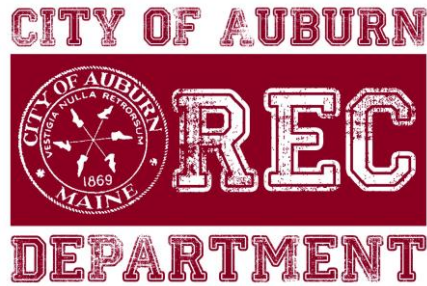
- Establishing a vision for the space
- Trail System, is it mapped, how big, are they defined trails?
- Year-round use – snow activities such as snowshoe trails.
- Vision for event space and outdoor pavilion with BBQ capabilities.

3. Department Update - Sabrina provided a quick update on the department which included:

- No major issues with summer programs COVID related
- Fall Brochure should be ready by the end of the month, staff is still working on guidance from the State and MPA for sports related items.
- Civic Rec was awarded the new software contract for the Department and will launch to the public by the new year.
- Staff has created a new all-day childcare program to help parents on remote learning days so they can continue to work.

4. Work in Progress

- a) Mount Apatite: Rick Martel provided an update on the busy summer the trails have been seeing with public use and updates provided by Wil Libby a certified trailblazer. FOMA is



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looking to start back up with consistent meetings in Fall as many are out busy using the space in the summer. There have been improvements with kiosk, fliers, and dog waste stations along with trash cans. There is still a need for signage, Carl offered many suggestions on how to help fund signage at the park. Rick has replenished the fliers and maps with over 150 copies. Rick is going to connect with Carl to continue discussion on signage and sponsorship options.

- b) Municipal Beach: Sabrina talked about the Tot Lot and Municipal Beach is scheduled to be discussed at the City Council at the Oct 19 meeting. It would be great for the board to have a letter of recommendation submitted to help provide the council with the board (public) vision for the areas and options of how best to move forward. Suzanne was able to talk with Sid Hazelton from the Water and Sewer District about Municipal beach and the water quality. Since the meeting, the Water District has started to test samples from the Municipal Beach to provide an update on water quality for the council meeting. One suggestion was to look at the poor water flow in the area which directly impacts the water quality specific to E.coli and Bacteria. There was also discussion about the park condition with the playground, shack with bathrooms, picnic areas and fishing. Even if the water quality is not safe enough to swim the space can still be used for water related activities such as fishing, boat launch, kayaking etc. **The Board would like to invite Sid Hazelton and Leroy Walker to either the September 9th or October 14 meetings to have input on the Tot Lot and Municipal Beach recommendations.**
- c) New Sports Complex Development: Sabrina updated the board that Auburn Suburban has gone to the planning board with the idea of the complex. They are looking to submit a grant to the Conservation Corps to help with most of the construction of the complex. In the meantime, Auburn Suburban is moving forward with some clear cutting of trees this summer and fall.

3. New Business/Open Session for the Public

- a) New Chair – **Motion “Nominate Misty to be the Chair of the Parks and Rec Advisory Board” Tim Cogle/Rick Martel – unanimous and Misty accepted.**
- b) September meeting will be held at the Municipal Beach. The Auburn Senior Community Center will be the rain location.
- c) Suzanne asked if there was any movement on the Conservation Commission Parks Subcommittee and the overlap with the Advisory Board. Sabrina reported that the Committee on Committees has put together their final recommendations which will go in front of the City Council at the Sept 8 meeting. Hopefully, we will have more direction after.
- d) Sabrina reminded the board that we have 1 vacant spot and there are a few board members terms that have ended. They should apply to return if they should so choose by Sept 4 to Sue in the City Clerks office.

4. Next Meeting

- a) Sept 8, 2020 6:30 pm at Municipal Beach (ASCC rain location)
- b) Items for next meeting

- a. Tot Lot and Municipal Beach recommendations
- b. Committee on Committee Findings and Recommendations
- c. Parks division

7. Adjourn

****Motion: to Adjourn by Misty Edgecomb/Suzanne Roy unanimous**