



# City of Auburn, Maine

## Recreation Department

Sabrina Best, Director

48 Pettengill Park Road | Auburn, Maine 04210

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

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 6:30pm

Municipal Beach Park

**Members Present:** Sabrina Best, Rick Martel, Misty Edgecomb, Paula Curtis-Everett, Mike Thurston and Suzanne Roy

**Absent:** Tim Cogle

**Members of the Public:** Leroy Walker

**1. Approval of August Minutes: Motion to accept Rick Martel/Paula Curtis-Everett, Unanimous.**

**2. Municipal Beach Site Walk** – the group toured the facility and reviewed the recommendations made by the Parks Subcommittee in 2018:

- Snack shack and bathrooms are in great shape.
- This park is well maintained.
- Playground equipment looks great. Snack shack and bathrooms need to be opened.
- It is under utilized, needs more life.
- Paddle boats, kayak classes, canoes to fish out of.
- Swimming, once "product is found and installed that can combat the bacteria issue.

The Board discussed a variety of topics and ideas.

- Snack Shake and Bathrooms would need some TLC but could be opened for public use. The would need to be a plan in place for cleaning and locking up.
- Water Quality, the AWSD has been conducting some water testing in August and September to help provide a picture of current water quality.
- Options for improving water quality to make swimmable or at least safe for other recreational activities such as canoeing, paddle boats, kayaking etc.
- Fountains would beautify the area and provide aeration and circulation. How many would be needed to obtain a certain level.
- Changes with the gate would impact water flow to surrounding areas and have impacts that would need to be looked at, perhaps a study is the best approach for this area.
- Playground area is in decent shape but could use maybe one or two more features.
- Basketball area needs upgrade with resurfacing of the court area and hoops.
- The volleyball area might need some updated equipment but otherwise in okay shape.
- Parking lot is a good size but needs holes filled in and lines.

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

- No major issues with summer programs COVID related
- Fall Brochure has been published

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- Civic Rec was awarded the new software contract for the Department and will launch to the public by the new year. New Logo is updated on the city website and Facebook page.
- Auburn Adventures Childcare program begins 9/14.

#### 4. Work in Progress

- Tot Lot and Municipal Beach recommendation to City Council:* Misty will put together an official recommendation from the board and provide a draft via email prior to the next meeting. The focus was to keep both locations up and running with a list of recommendations. Primary focus would be to approach the Tot Lot area as more of an event location and keep Municipal Beach as a public park. Leroy mentioned finding the Deeds to the locations and make sure the City owns them, he believes there are leases in place. Leroy recalled a study done on putting in a septic system for restrooms at the tot lot (roughly \$40,000). Sabrina will once again invite Sid Hazelton from the Auburn Water and Sewer District to the October meeting.
- Mount Apatite:* Rick Martel updated the board that the FOMA group did not meet in August but will be holding their September meeting. Rick has been working with Carl on signage and drafting up a design.
- New Sports Complex Development:* Sabrina updated the board that Auburn Suburban is slowly moving forward with some clear cutting of trees.

#### 3. New Business/Open Session for the Public

- Paula 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 was supposed to be the Sept 8 meeting, but that has been pushed back. Hopefully, we will have more direction after.

#### 4. Next Meeting

- Oct 13, 2020 6:30 pm at ASCC
- Items for next meeting
  - Tot Lot and Municipal Beach recommendations
  - Committee on Committee Findings and Recommendations
  - Parks division

#### 7. Adjourn

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