



City of Auburn
Recreation Department
Dawna LaBonte', Director
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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 09, 2024, at 4:30pm (Lake View Park)

Members Present: Misty Edgecomb, Haley Warden, Julia Bergeron-Smith, Jeremy Gatcomb, Sara Parker, and Philip Savignano

Absent: Dawna Labonte, Elisabeth Collier

Misty/Haley; all in favor unanimous. Approved Tim Cogle and Corey Kinnan absence

Meeting Minutes: August minutes approved Haley/Julia; all in favor unanimous

September minute approved Haley/Julia; all in favor unanimous

Department Update:

- Fall programs are all in full swing! Our Fall/Winter Brochure is out and available on our website. The (2) season format seems to work well so we are trying it again for this brochure. Check out the brochure to see what we are offering! I have attached it to this email.
- Recreation is hoping to bring back the Winter Competition Cheering after our break last season. Offering 4th-6th and 6th-8th grade teams. If the committee knows of any athletes looking for an affordable option to try out cheerleading send them our way! The football program is back to post COVID numbers, and our teams are doing amazing. Fall Adult sports are underway- including soccer, basketball and softball- and we are at capacity for both numbers and space. Senior trips will be slowing down come winter, so we are hoping to increase our in-house programming to make up for less excursions.
- The committee should consider looking at current Park Ordinances and discuss updates that need to be made so Dawna can start the process of reviewing them with the City Manager. That way come spring they are approved by Council and can be enforced.
- Dawna had a conference call with NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association) about a possible site visit to Auburn in December. They will be in Maine, specifically in the Portland area, to review Maine's park-based recycling or start a case study if nothing has been established. Dawna spoke about how currently we are doing basic trash/bottle recycling- they mentioned that they would love to attend a City Council meeting if recycling was an agenda item. She will check, however maybe the committee can host them at the December meeting and we can make it a topic of discussion.
- Sara said that pizza and pj's will be held again this year, but they are looking to do something a bit different because some people that register for the free program do not show up.
- Vacation camps are open for registration

Work in Progress:

Playground at the old Lake Street School:

- Misty asked if the playground that is being constructed there has been inspected as someone from the community donated it. Jeremy said that he will investigate this and report back next year. Jeremy did inform the committee that this property was not owned by the city.

Halloween table for trick or treating event plan:

- Sara said that recreation is the process of planning the annual Fright Festival- this year we will be joining forces with the Communications Department to host the event Downtown Auburn. This will be a Trunk or Treat type of event that will include several departments within the city along with business that are on the Main strip.
- The committee will have a table this year, glow sticks and candy will be given out.
- The road (Main Street) will close at 3:30 and the event is from 5:00-7:30. Ok to park in the parking garage.
- There will be several departments from the city that will have vehicles or tables so the hope is that Main Street will be full.

Parks Tours Notes:

Lake View Park:

- Misty reminded the committee that in the past the park was a land fill. She said because there is so much space there could be a few different things in this location.
- Jeremy pointed out that a large sum of money was put into a field to repair it at one point in time and the following year the land fill had shifted so the field was a mess.
- Misty mentioned that there should be a dog park at this location. Since it is so close to the pet store, there could be walking trails that you could put in to get there. She also said because you cannot plant trees there etc. there will be a need for some sort of shade.
- She said that she was hoping that a smaller workgroup could be formed (out of some of the committee members).
 - There was a motion to make a work group for the dog park Haley/Philip; all in favor unanimous
- The committee discussed that this would also be a good location for a pump park.
- Philip also pointed out that this location would be a good space to hold outside festivals

Other Business:

- **Ad hoc bonafide committee:**
 - The mayor is putting together a committee to help determine and define the parameters for bonafide agricultural recreational and natural resource land use.
 - One representative from the committee will be asked to attend
 - Philip said that he will attend (the meeting was held 10/09/24 at 6:00PM in the community room at city hall)

Meeting was adjourned, Haley/Philip; all in favor unanimous.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday November 13th, 2024– 4:30 pm – Pettengill Park