



City of Auburn  
Recreation Department  
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### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday August 14, 2024, at 4:30pm (Mother's Park, Bonney Park, and Moulton Park)

**Members Present:** Misty Edgecomb, Haley Warden, Corey Kinnan, Elisabeth Collier, Tim Cogle, Julia Bergeron-Smith, Jeremy Gatcomb, and Philip Savignano

**Absent:** Dawna Labonte and Sara Parker

**Meeting Minutes:** July's meeting minutes were not approved and will be in September.

### **Department Update:**

- None – Dawna and Sarah were on a work trip and unable to attend the meeting.
- Dawna aimed to send updates to the committee via email at a later date.

### **New Business:**

- No new business items were discussed.

### **Work in Progress:**

- No work in progress items were discussed.

### **Parks Tours Notes:**

- **Mother's Park –**
  - The committee discussed the various strengths of the park like the new benches, table, trashcans, and how this "pocket park" is a safe play space on a quiet street used by the surrounding neighborhood. It is likely especially useful for folks in apartments that lack their own greenspace. Some additional improvements to the park could include adding a structure for shade, a bike rack, foursquares, additional greenery like bushes or blueberries, and partnering with a corporate sponsor to help pay for these additional amenities. One additional idea generated during this discussion was about potentially having a fundraiser selling pavers where residents could place their mothers' names on them and uses these to replace existing walkway that needs repair.
  - Misty informed the group about the recent renaming of the park to Mother's Park for \$5,000. This generated more questions than answers for the committee, specifically, what are the parameters for renaming any Auburn

park (for example, determine naming rights, purchase cost, frequency of park renaming, the purchasing group's responsibility to the park once renamed), and how to get this committee involved in establishing or at least weighing in on these boundaries going forward.

- **Bonney Park –**

- Misty and Jeremy reminded the committee about the current plans to bring new play structures and a splash pad to this park next year. Haley noted the library's story boards starting at this park, and Tim pointed out the access bridge to Lewiston.
- The committee then went on to discuss the space's acute issue of turning into a homelessness encampment, rather than a play space for the city's youth. Tim explained that while patrol cars drive through and police engage in community policing with these residents, the space is not currently being used as its intended capacity and this likely relates to the rise of people experiencing homelessness and the fair weather. Corey added that the natural formation of the park (i.e., being set lower than the street level and surrounded by trees and bushes) is not an ideal design for creating a safe space.
- The committee discussed the potential of having a reopening of the park once the new play equipment is installed and having things like food trucks to generate foot traffic and an event that will inspire continued use in the way that the space is intended.

- **Moulton Park –**

- Misty opened up the discussion explaining how Rails to Trails will be extended past Moulton Park in the near future and how this will likely bring increased exposure to and use of the park. Julia reminded the group that this park has been previously identified as a dog park option given its natural design and walkability for area residents. The park's lack of parking makes it harder to access. Phil noted that there used to be a staircase from the CLT to the park and Jeremy noted that the hill, but the CLT parking lot is used by the city to dump snow and how the snow does gather in that side of the park.
- The group thought the skate park portion of the park could be converted to a parking lot. Jeremy noted that the paved park from Moulton to Bonney was recently paved and that the additional lighting was also added. The group agreed that parking is one of the bigger challenges of the space.
- The size of the park, its plethora of shade, and its enclosed space makes it suitable for dogs. Adding fencing and a water faucet would be ideal. This placement of a dog park may make it more accessible to residents with small dogs/dogs in an apartment while larger dogs or dogs that do not need a fence could go to Lakeview Park or Mount Apatite. Julia noted that a bulletin board could be added to the park that communicates to users when it is going to get mowed or cleaned by the city. This could also be a spot for dog trainers to post their information or could be used to tell residents about upcoming events in Moulton or other parks.

**Meeting was adjourned, Tim/Misty; all in favor unanimous.**

Next meeting will be held Wednesday September 11, 2024 – 4:30pm (Park Tour Continues)