

**Town of Auburn  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
August 13, 2018**

**Commissioners Present:** Dave Nye, Co- Chairman; Lisa Canavan, Co-Chairman; Pat Kelly; Margie McEvoy; Jim Headd, Selectman

**Others Present:** Amy Lachance, P&R Coordinator; Mike Dobmeier, Facilities Manager; Dave Oliviera

**Budget Update-** We are moving along nicely on our checklist of projects this year. Mr. Eaton said that the Little League decided that they do not want dugouts on the T-ball field. They were trying to come up with a design and location that would work for that field but everything would block the view of the spectators on that small field. As the other dugouts were also to be installed to provide shelter if a storm hits, the T-ball field is so close to the parking lot that everyone could easily go to their cars. The budget for that project was \$5500. Mr. Headd explained that we would need to present to the BOS another project that could use those funds instead of the dugouts. Mr. Nye suggested that with that, we might be able to get one of the skating rinks working again. He will get some estimates on that project.

The yellow slide has been ordered and should be in within 2 or 3 weeks. Mr. Dobmeier commented that it would be best to install it after school starts in 2 weeks anyway.

Shed doors have been ordered through Overhead Doors and will be installed shortly.

**Memorial Bench for Helen-** It was agreed that we should order the 12-foot bench without a back so visitors can either watch the concert or watch their kids on the play structure. The concern was where to put the plaque. It was agreed to put a small engraved stone in front of the bench. Ms. McEvoy motioned to order the 12-foot bench from Mr. Sowa. Ms. Canavan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Lachance will order the bench and get estimates for the plaque.

**Summer Concerts-** There is only one more concert in the park this season. We have been very lucky so far with great weather this year. There is a slight chance of rain this Thursday. We have had around 300 attendees at each concert. The plan is to move the concert to Longmeadow in the event of rain. With crowds of that size and a large band like the Bob Pratte Band, Longmeadow may not be big enough. If the band could reschedule, that may be the best option. If they can't, and it rains, we'll just use Longmeadow and see how it goes. We'll need to come up with a better plan for next year as we may not be this lucky again.

**Senior BBQ-** The Senior BBQ was held last Saturday and was a huge success. There were 55 Auburn Seniors in attendance. The food was great and the new location of Longmeadow was more comfortable with more space. Keep it at this location again next year.

**Commissioner Resignation/New Commissioner-** BK Bazan has resigned from the Commission. Kate Lafond and Dave Oliveira have submitted their applications for the open position. The Selectmen will make the decision tonight. Thank you to BK Bazan for his time on the Commission.

**New Fall Programs-** Ms. Lachance presented a few new program ideas for this fall and winter. Teen Council would be a fun program for teens to get involved in the community and help plan activities for their own age group as well as volunteer within the community. We'll get that going in the fall.

Another program for the fall would be men's pick-up basketball. If there is availability in the gym at AVS, we'll get that going for the late fall or early winter meeting once a week.

We tried to start a Family Dodgeball last year but didn't give it enough lead time so we didn't have enough interest. We'll try it for either November or January but start organizing now. Todd Bedard offered to help organize this event.

Movement and Yoga is returning again this year. Last year it was called "Little Yogis". We have 1 registration so far. The Babysitting class last year was a huge hit. We'll be scheduling another one or two classes this fall into the winter.

**Mission Statement-** The Parks and Rec Commission doesn't have a mission statement. What do we do, what do we stand for and what is our goal? Ms. Lachance handed out some samples of other mission statement and the Commissioners are assigned to pull our words or sentences that they like so we can come together as a group to make our own. Mr. Dobmeier already submitted his ideas. This will be an important piece as we start to "rebrand" the P&R Commission.

**Mowing-** There have been more issues with the mowers this season not getting the grass cut. Mr. Nye received a phone call with a complaint of how high the grass is in one of the parks. Ms. McEvoy also has received complaints. A resident in town came to the Safety Complex field with their own mower and cut the grass since it was not done and was too high for the kids to play. As said in the past, the Parks and Rec would like to mow the parks and fields.

**Facilities Update-** Mr. Dobmeier reported that some expected repairs are ongoing. The parks will be steam cleaned once the kids are back to school. We will post on facebook when the park is scheduled to close. Hopefully the slide will also be in so that can be repaired while the park is closed. Some pieces on the play structure need to be repaired as well. Mr. Nye requested a 15-acre map of the Circle of Fun so the new walking path plan that is in the 2019 budget.

Mr. Nye the storage/maintenance building that was put in the 2019 budget. If this doesn't pass, we'll need to rent another storage unit since many of the P&R supplies and tools are stored at Commissioner's homes. Mr. Headd report that a committee has been formed to discuss the options for buildings for both Parks & Rec and Police (two separate buildings). One option that was discussed to bring one of the portables as a storage and work area. Mr. Nye said that that wouldn't be a good option for our larger items since the floor couldn't hold.

**Auburn Soccer Club-** Games will be schedule starting next week. There are 8 travel teams. Practices start August 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kelly has all the supplies needed to start the season. There is one section that needs some turf repairs. He will talk with Highest Quality to discuss the options and if now is the right time to do it.

With AVS under construction and the school fields are unusable, they will be using the town fields. A huge thanks to both Chris Webster and Pat Kelly who adjusted their schedules so that the school can play their home games at Wayne Eddows. Michel O'Rourke is the Athletic Director at AVS for the next couple years.

**YMCA Programs-** Flag Football will be out again this year. Mr. Webster is also working on a new boys running program called "Boys on the Move" for third and forth grade boys.

Mr. Nye commented on how happy he is with the direction the programs in Parks and Rec are going. We offer many programs for all ages groups.

**Review of Minutes-** Ms. Canavan motioned to approve the minutes from July 9, 2018. Ms. McEvoy seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Fall Senior Trip-** This trip is schedule for October 4<sup>th</sup> and is going to Salem MA. The trip filled up in under two weeks. Mr. Nye asked if we could get a larger bus. Ms. Lachance that there weren't any available but will look into options to rent another bus. If we do rent a second bus, we'd be out of money. Ms. Lachance will present any other options.

Ms. McEvoy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Canavan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously