

**Town of Auburn
Parks and Recreation Commission
January 13, 2020**

Commissioners Present: Patty Rousseau, Chairman; Margie McEvoy, Vice Chairman; Pat Kelly; Dave Oliveira; Mary Royer; Zach Eaton

Others Present: Amy Lachance, P&R Coordinator; Mike Dobmeier, Facilities Coordinator

Budget- The 2020 budget has been approved through the BOS and Budget Committee but now still needs to be approved through the town vote in March. We can spend as usual, but we cannot start any new big projects until the budget has been approved by the town.

Everyone received a copy of the latest CIP that is 2020 through 2025. The CIP will be updated every year. We will be discussing the 2021-2016 CIP at the March P&R Commission meeting. Some of the items to consider would be a replacement truck in 5 years (although we can push that out if needed), repair or replace the ice rinks and possibly adding exercise stations to the parks. Please start thinking about items now to be added to the updated CIP.

The Deliberative is February 1 at AVS starting at 9:00 am with the school going first. It will be helpful for all who can attend to stop in and support P&R.

Senior Dinner- Margie reported that they are all set with volunteers. They are all set with volunteers for this event with the Auburn Red Hatters ready to serve again. So far there are 76 people who have responded with more expected throughout the week.

Camp Adventure- Registration is already underway for the summer camp.

Winter Carnival- February 1st is the new date for the Winter Carnival. It was 60 degrees on January 11th which was the original date of the event and the ice was completely melted. Mary suggested that a cancellation sign is posted at the location because one person called her to complain that she was not aware the event was postponed.

Foxwoods Trip- The trip to Foxwoods Casino on Saturday, December 28th was a success although the bus wasn't full. Everyone had a great time and were asking if we'd do it again. If we did plan another casino trip in the future, it would probably have better attendance if it wasn't so close to the holidays. This trip was planned because we had some funds left in the senior trip account which made this a good time to try a casino trip. Auburn seniors only paid the regular \$15 but non-residents and non-seniors paid the full price of \$30. It was a good mix of all ages who attended.

2020 Landscaping RFP- All the bids for the 2020 landscaping contract were narrowed down to Plazascapes with Matt Plaza and Parker Landscaping. They were both interviewed with Mike, Amy, Bill Herman and 2 Cemetery Trustees. Everyone agreed that both companies would do a great job. The final recommendation was to go with Parker since his bid was lower. That has been passed on to the BOS for them to make the final decision.

Ice Skating Rinks- The rinks were filled on January 5th. Because that date was after the latest snowfall and the rinks were not fully cleared, the decision was made to not put down the plastic before they were flooded. Patty questioned what went wrong as the rinks were being prepared. At the last Commission meeting, it was decided that rinks would not be plowed by the town as they have in the past because the trucks they use have sanders on the back which ruin the ice. Instead P&R will clear the rinks with either the snowblower or 4-wheeler. The concern was that the rinks were not cleared after the last storm and we had to hire someone to plow them off before they were flooded. Discussion continued about when and how the rinks need to be cleared. Zach has offering to help clear the rinks once they are full and frozen. Mike suggested we hire someone with the smaller truck to plow the snow off or even get a plow on the P&R

truck. We don't have the funds in our budget for this year but it's something to consider for following years. Going forward, we'll all keep in better communication to be prepared for the next storm so that we are ready to clear the ice. For the smaller amounts of snow, P&R will clear it with the snowblower and 4-wheeler. If it's a much larger storm, we can talk to Mike Dross in advance, only if he has someone without a sander on the back or find a volunteer. The goal is to get people skating this season.

Summer Concerts/Coffee House Concert- The turnout for the last Coffee House Concert was a couple dozen residents along with family and friends of the band. With the low turnout at the Coffee House discussed that we change it up so that we offer events that serve the greatest number of residents. Margie read a message from Maureen Juliano who asked that the Coffee House Concert given another try at a different location. The Commission agreed that a third summer concert would be better use of the funds. The Coffee House budget is \$800 and the summer concerts is \$1400 each. Instead of service hot dogs and hamburgers at the extra concert, we'll serve ice cream to keep the budget down.

Mr. Eaton made a motion to switch the Coffee House Concert to a third summer concert. Ms McEvoy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Meeting Date Change- Todd offered a suggestion that the P&R Commission meeting be moved to a Tuesday instead of a Monday. This would help the Selectman Rep to be able to stay through the entire meeting instead of leave early to attend the Monday BOS meetings.

Ms. Royer made the motion to change the meeting date of the Parks and Rec Commission to the first Tuesday of every month. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Auburn Soccer Club- Tentative dates for the soccer camp with Pinkerton is the week of July 6 or July 13. The FC Stars will be held the week of August 2. The coordinators will be in touch with Amy to submit the paperwork. Most of the campers are Auburn kids.

Facilities Update- Everything is quiet this time of year.

Auburn Little League- Also quiet but the planning for the year has begun. Once it is confirmed the fence is done on the softball field, Zach will install the toppers. Zach will also do work on the wall for wallball this spring.

Review of Minutes- *Ms. McEvoy motioned to accept the minutes of December 9, 2019. Ms. Royer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4 at 6:00 pm.

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