

**Town of Auburn
Parks and Recreation Commission
February 6, 2024
6:00 pm
Severance School Community Center**

Commissioners Present: Zach Eaton, Chairman; Margie McEvoy, Vice Chairman; Mary Royer; Dave Oliveira; Pat Kelly; Jen Strabone; Tom Carroll, Selectman Representative

Others Present: Amy Lachance, P&R Coordinator

2024 Budget & Senior Trips – The 2024 budget has been passed through the BOS and Budget Committee and we are now waiting for the town election on March 12, 2024 for the final approval. One of the items that was discussed at both the Budget Committee and the BOS meetings were the additional senior trips. Our budget was approved for 3 trips per year. To help offset the increasing cost of each trip, it was discussed to increase the fee.

Mr. Eaton motioned to increase the fee for Senior Trips from \$20 per person to \$30 per person. Ms. McEvoy seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The registration system also needed to be changed to ensure fairness to all to sign up. Currently, registrations are accepted on a first come-first serve basis. With the Crier reaching households on different times and days, the same people would get on the waitlist each trip.

After discussion, it was decided registration will be done by lottery. Registration will be open for a week for each trip allowing the residents time to drop their form off. If a couple or a group would like to travel together, up to 4 names can be added to each form so they can be drawn together. However, each person can only add their name once. This new system will be used in 2024 and adjustments may be made as needed to be sure all have a chance to attend at least one trip per year.

Senior Tea – The new Senior Tea, which has replaced the Senior Dinner, will be held on Saturday, February 24 at Severance. This will be our first big event in the building. We estimate that we will be able to fit 45 people. We'll set up tables and chairs on Friday, February 23. We may need to borrow chairs from the school and pick up extra tables from storage. The remaining set up and decorating will happen on Saturday at 11:00 am, with the event beginning at 1:00 pm. Volunteers will be needed on 2/23 at 5:00 pm, Saturday 2/24 at 11:00 am for set up and serving and 2:30 pm for cleanup and returning tables and chairs.

Bunny Brunch- The Bunny Brunch will be held on Saturday, March 30 at Severance. Due to the limited space, there will be 3 seating times, 8:00 am-9:00 am, 9:30 am-10:30 am and 11:00 am-Noon. Instead of the egg hunt, we'll have hidden bunnies throughout the building. Details on that are being worked out. The complete set up will be on Friday, March 29. The following morning we'll set up and prep the food including cooking the

pancakes and sausages on the skillets. Volunteers will be needed on Friday, 3/29 at 5:00 pm and Saturday, 3/30 at 7:00 am for the event and 12:00 pm for the cleanup.

Camp Adventure – Registration opened on February 1 at 8:00 am and went very smoothly. Weeks 1, 2 and 3 are full with space still available in week 4.

Town/Little League Wayne Eddows MOU- An MOU has been drafted for Little League and has been passed along to Zach and Brian D'Amelio. Most of the documents are the same as the ASC with a few details changed. We'll begin the same process as ASC and hope to complete it before the spring season begins.

Town/ASC Wayne Eddows MOU- FC Stars Soccer Clinic has again requested to have the fee waived for their soccer camp due to the amount of Auburn players served at a discounted rate. In 2023, their program had 35 players participate, with 20 of them from Auburn.

Mr. Oliveira motioned to waive the fee for the 2024 FC Stars Soccer Clinic. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Brazilian United Soccer Camp- A request to use Wayne Eddows for the Brazilian United Soccer Camp. This is a new group to Auburn. They are requesting the week of August 12-16 (the date is flexible) between 8:30am - 4:30 pm. They are proposing they pay P&R \$10 per camper. Amy will confirm if they intend to offer this camp as a Parks & Rec sponsored program or simply requesting to rent the field. Since nobody has heard of this group before, Amy will check with other Parks & Rec departments to see if they are a reputable organization. This issue has been tabled until the March meeting.

Library Expansion/Community Center- During the budget process, the BOS discussed that they would like to see Parks & Rec work together with the library on the expansion of the library along with a Parks & Rec area for a Community Center. There is an initial meeting on Monday, February 26. Amy will attend as the representative for Parks & Rec and report back.

The Commission discussed some ideas of what they'd like to see in a future community/rec center. After our first year with Severance, we see the need for the Activity Room to be bigger to accommodate more people at one time such as the Bunny Brunch or Senior Tea and the meeting/craft room should be larger so people don't need to end up on the waiting list for popular events. Better kitchen space to allow for cooking at events and but also create an area for cooking classes. All agreed that a gym is needed. The school gym is used constantly by the school and ARBL but more could be offered if there was some free time. Plus, it would open up the possibility for so many more afterschool programs. If a gym isn't an option at this point, at least create a design that could expand to a future gym. Although this isn't a final list of needs and wants, it was our first discussion on the direction we'd like to go.

Facilities Update- Because of the warm weather, the skating rink has been struggling to open. We did have one cold weekend that allowed the rinks to be used for 3 days. Hopefully more cold weather will be on the way.

Little League- Registrations are open for the spring season. Evaluations will be held on March 9

ASC- Registrations are not open yet for the spring season.

Review of Minutes- *Review of minutes from November 7, 2023 have been postponed until March meeting.*

Next Meeting-. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 5**, at 6:00 pm at the Severance School Community Center.

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