

**City of Ellsworth**  
1 City Hall Plaza, Ellsworth, ME 04605

**RECREATION COMMISSION**  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 21 at 8:30 a.m.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Marichal called the meeting to order at 8:32AM.

**Members Present:** Chair Eric Marichal, Vice-Chair Kathy Young, Members Jon Stein, Kim Fitch, and Josh Frost.

**Members Absent:** Melinda Workman

**Staff Present:** Toni Dyer, City Clerk

**2. Adoption of March 16, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes**

Vice-Chair Young moved to adopt the March 16, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. Member Fitch seconded the motion. **The motion to adopt the March 16, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes was UNANIMOUS.**

**3. Long-Term Projects**

Chair Marichal asked the Commission what their long-term goals are. Marichal said that his long-term goal was to work with the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan focuses on recreation. Additionally, Marichal said that he would like the City to create a Parks & Recreation Department so that they can have a dedicated staff member to help them with these projects. Vice-Chair Young said that her long-term goals are adding a dog park to the City, add signage to the public fields, and the addition of more walking trails. Member Frost said that his long-term goals are centered on athletics. Frost specifically mentioned that the track needs to be rebuilt as it is more than 30 years old and poses a danger to students. Frost also mentioned that the school fields need to be repaired. Frost said he would also like to see a turf field for sports, the addition of bleachers, and the addition of a tennis court at the High School. Member Fitch said that she would also like to see the creation of a Parks & Recreation Department in the City. Fitch also said that she would like to see more youth sports programs outside of the Y that are more affordable to Ellsworth students, the school track to be replaced, and an addition of a play place at the Harbor. Member Stein said that he would like to see an asset inventory of all recreational spaces and facilities and an assessment of the status of each. The Commission thought that it would be a good idea to go around to all of the facilities and see the status for themselves.

The Commission wanted a workshop with the Public Works Director, City Council, Finance Department, and the City Manager to define the Recreation Commission's mission and discuss an expansion to create a department. The group also thought about identifying other like communities with Recreation Departments to compare. An additional project that the Commission discussed was working on a Riverwalk plan with Frenchman Bay Conservancy and Heart of Ellsworth.

**4. Comprehensive Plan Discussion**

Chair Marichal said that he was reading about Comprehensive Plans through his role on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and there is a chapter in the Plan which will be devoted to recreation. In the information, there were guidelines for recreation such as how many playgrounds, parks,

fields, etc. per capita the community should have. Marichal stated that there is a big need for recreation in the City and the Commission should work with the Comprehensive Plan team to include those needs in the final plan.

**5. Staff Comments**

None

**6. Member Comments**

None

**7. Adjournment**

Member Fitch moved to adjourn. Vice-Chair Young seconded the motion. **The vote to adjourn was UNANIMOUS.**