

City of Ellsworth
1 City Hall Plaza, Ellsworth, ME 04605
RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Fitch called the meeting to order at 8:37AM.

Members Present: Vice-Chair Kim Fitch, Member Melinda Workman, Member Josh Frost, and Member Jon Stein.

Members Absent: Chair Eric Marichal

Staff Present: City Planner Matthew Williams and Planning, Community Development Assistant Brittany Merrill, and Deputy City Clerk Ebony Kramp-Dowling

2. Adoption of October 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Fitch moved to adopt the October 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Member Workman seconded the motion. **The vote to adopt the October 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes was UNANIMOUS.**

3. Update on Tree for Tree Lighting

Fitch announced that they had a tree and that it was less expensive than last year. She thanked public works for putting it up.

There was then a discussion on the lights for the light poles. It was noted that the lights had been ordered but they were short and only had about half. It was determined that someone would check with Facilities Manager McLean on that status and possibly get the rest of the lights from another source. Discussion then moved to the lights for the Tree. It was determined that all new colored lights should be ordered and that there were seven strands of white lights leftover from past years that could be used for something else.

The discussion then turned to the Tree Lighting Event. The following was determined:

- Set up would be early enough to test and make sure everything would run smoothly
- City Manager Pearce would be speaking at the event, and they needed to follow up with City Counciler Beal
- The library event would end early enough to let people cross over to the Tree Lighting area.
- There was a show schedule this year with the speeches, song, countdown, tree lighting and final song, so speeches should be 1-2minutes.
- There is only one outlet so The Grand would use their generator for the sound system.

The light poles were brought up again. It was noted that the bridge did not have a working receptacle for lights, and it was unsure what was happening with it. Frost asked when the pole lights would be up. It was determined that public works would put the lights up as soon as they had all of them. Frost thought an economic director was needed to make sure these items got done on time. Fitch asked if they had tables and mentioned she needed 6. Williams replied they did have tables available. Merrill mentioned that the Parklet would be up for the ceremony but taken down shortly after. Williams mentioned he would check with Public Works to make sure someone was there for the whole event. Kramp-Dowling mentioned she would ask to have a policeman at the crosswalk the whole time.

4. Discussion on Ice Festival and Tree Lighting

Fitch began by stating that people were engaged and planning stuff and after the Tree Lighting event they could focus on the Ice Festival. Dates for the festival: Jan 31st-Feb 3rd. Fireworks would be shot off from Ellsworth High School Baseball Field.

5. Update on Ice Rink

Williams read Marichal's e-mail about the potential sponsor for the ice rink and agreed to order a smaller rink for a pilot program. He noted that Public Works would set it up at Knowlton Park in the back lot. Workman asked if the benches could be moved up to the ice rink.

6. Public Comments

Zabet NeuCollins from the Heart of Ellsworth asked to confirm the parklet closure and noted that they wouldn't be able to move the trees until that Monday after the Tree Lighting. She mentioned that their Cider & Cheese Festival was successful with more than 300 people attending and that they wanted to do more next year. She asked the Recreation Commission if they wanted to be a part of it. She noted it would be the 2nd week in November and that having a police officer to help people cross Bucksport Road would be helpful.

7. Member Comments

Frost gave an update on the track & turf meeting he had and said he would keep them updated as discussions continue. Fitch & Workman both loved the tree. Workman noted that Knowlton Park looked great after the cleanup, but the trees weren't groomed, and the bushes were raggedy and thought the park should be prioritized more.

Frost asked for an update on the parade. Fitch replied that everything was good, a lot of new organizations signed up and Mom's Cheesecake was named the Grand Marshall. She noted that Santa would be ending the parade and then would be available at the Grand after the parade. Fitch noted they were encouraging floats to have music and lights and advised downtown businesses to capitalize on the event.

NeuCollins mentioned that the trees would be trimmed the next day and then they would be hanging spheres at the Merrill Parklet in time for the Tree Lighting.

Staff Comments

Kamp-Dowling mentioned that she and Brown were willing to help start a year round event committee to make sure events didn't get missed. There was a discussion on if it would be a sub committee of the Recreation Commission or have it be informal.

8. Adjournment

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