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TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Acton Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Room 121
Acton Town Hall
June 8, 2010

Call to Order

Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair, called meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following attendees were present: Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair, Ms. Kim Bodnar, Co-Chair, Mr. Frank Calore, Commissioner, Ms. Elizabeth Payne, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Recreation Part-Time Secretary, Guests: Ms. Betsy Mercier, Citizen.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Jarsky accepted as amended and passed 2-0.

Citizens Concerns:

Ms. Fochtman reported a citizens concern relating to AASL ballgames on Sundays. Selectman Mike Gowing was involved in an agreement with remaining plaintiffs from the Elm Street injunction to expand play time to Sundays and expand weekday hours to 10:00PM. He is no longer serving as Recreation liaison. Old issues regarding sports lighting intrusion onto adjacent properties at Elm Street have been addressed and corrected via Musco Lighting. Walter Foster (former selectman) suggested it may be time to release the injunction, however the remaining plaintiffs continue to feel this injunction should remain. AASL has agreed not to schedule games until further notice. Ms. Bodnar asked what the intent of scheduling games on Sundays is. Ms. Fochtman notes Sundays are typically used when games have been rained out during the week and used as a makeup date. It is important for AASL they have more game time available due to the constraints of availability at NARA and School Street. This is one of the purposes of the new lighting.

Action Item: Ms. Bodnar and Ms. Payne suggested AASL contact and meet with Mr. Gabrielli and discuss the concerns with the hope of a mutually agreeable outcome.

Goward Playground: Ms. Fochtman met with a citizen, Vera Godley, who reported some safety issues. Recreation is in the process of addressing at this time. Creating a "Volunteer Day" to fix up the playground was suggested and agreed. Ms. Fochtman agreed to arrange for the grounds crew to tend the playground more often for better maintenance. There is equipment which is in the process of being replaced. Ms. Bodnar inquired about the availability of having the materials on hand prior to arranging and scheduling a "Volunteer Day".

Action Item: Ms. Fochtman will work on arranging preparations to schedule a volunteer date at Goward Playground.

CPC Liaison:

Ms. Bodnar motioned to appoint Ms. Elizabeth Payne; a friend and colleague, as the CPC Representative. Ms. Jarsky seconded. All in favor.

Action Item: Ms. Fochtman will contact Mr. Roland Bartl about Ms. Payne's role with CPC.

Morrison Farm:

Ms. Fochtman provided a drawing of the Morrison Farm proposal from Kelleher Architects. There is a plan to develop a Recreation Corridor for active recreation fields to be developed along the edge of Ice House Pond. There is space allotted for 2-3 small lined fields. There are two fields which are maintained to some degree but not for ballfields. With some work, they could be developed for younger children's usage. What would be required for a regular 11 v 11 soccer field would cause a lot of disturbance and building up of the land to support a playing field. The other concern is the need for parking. There are citizen groups who would like to see Morrison Farm left alone.

There would be a lot of disruption of property to make a full size field behind the barn, in the hayfield. Currently, the Selectmen are reviewing the report. Mike Gowing is the Selectman working on this project. There is a great deal of expense estimated to renovate the house and barn. At this time, the barn is only safe as a storage location. The barn would need to be rebuilt. It has been suggested the house be renovated into office space which would require numerous upgrades to meet compliance with ADA guidelines for public access.

Action Item: The proposal is currently being reviewed by the Selectmen. Mr. Bill Mullen is addressing the development of additional recreational opportunities to add to NARA and Leary fields.

Retiree: As Mr. Frank Calore retires to enjoy the benefits forthcoming, the various Commissioners express their gratitude for Mr. Calore's involvement over many years. Mr. Calore expressed his enjoyment of being able to participate and to provide such interesting stories.

Action Item: Ms. Bodnar will send an email to the local resident inquiring about possible volunteers for the open Commission. There are currently two full-time and two associate positions available.

Intermunicipal Agreement: Ms. Fochtman was contacted by Ms. Erin Bettez. Per an intermunicipal document, Recreation and Community Education are to divide the use of the Elm Street basketball courts. The Town is supposed to also have use of the basketball courts at Elm Street. There are certain time/dates which the town has designated for this use.

NARA Field Renovation: Ms. Fochtman reports the tire tracks are now covered and the amphitheater areas are taking longer to recuperate from the damage. Ms. Fochtman would like to open up the field again. She will contact the vendor who is performing the ground work.

NARA Volleyball: There are two new volleyball courts at NARA. These courts will be rented out. The Life Care Center of Acton will conduct some league play along with the High School Volleyball Team.

NARA Beach: The opening went well. The new software being implemented at the beach is being used by the staff.

Sportsman Update – The software has been installed and the department is now able to obtain registrations on-line as well.

Event Update:

- *Chinese Culture Day.* Overwhelming attendance of approximately 3K people. The event was very successful. The original expectation was reported as 500.
- *Tyler Ryan Memorial Concert.* Memorial concert for a teen who committed suicide. Mr. James Avery and the Ryan family are arranging the concert. Headline Rapper Sam Adams is a local artist. There will be a Reggae band to warm up the crowd. This is a ticketed event at \$25.00 which will be applied to suicide prevention and depression awareness. There will be parking at the end of Nagog Park Drive. Abutter letters have been sent out and parking requests at the business. Lights will be placed along the Town Forest Trail for this event and for Lions Club Fair. There will be a small fireworks display at the Town Fair.
- *275th anniversary and July 3rd Celebration.* Entertainers, Live bands as well as a full day of free events and food! Hours are 12PM-10PM and conclude with fireworks

Reports

- a) *Elm Street Update:* Drainage on the field continues to be a concern. AASL has added more material in hopes drainage is corrected.
- b) *Morrison Farm Update:* Ruth Martin, an Acton resident has requested public records dating from 2006 to current relating to the use of home and barn.
- c) *CPC:* Everything has passed at Town meeting. The Town of Acton has purchased the Caouette property located in South Acton.
- d) *School Street:* No report.
- e) *Playground Update:* Replacement equipment for Goward will be approved shortly, mulching will not occur this season. Mr. Calore will contact The Haartz Company located in town, with a request for materials. These materials will be utilized as replacement for the tops of the trains and houses. Ms. Fochtman will obtain the measurements. Ms. Jarsky inquired about parking lines to be painted at the Gardner Field. Ms. Fochtman will inquire with Engineering as to ownership of the property.
- f) *Open Space and Recreation Plan:* No report.
- g) *NARA Picnic Pavilion Update:* Ms. Fochtman reported Recreation is in the process of working with the architect, Kang Associates, on a preliminary design with much functionality such as a dance floor. Lighting will be distributed along the beams and shone downward. The preference is for a copper color metal roof. We have to wait for Senate Bill 90 (SB90) to free up CPC funds that had been set aside for Pavilion construction prior to Seidman v. City of Newton.

New Business

TePee Archery: Ms. Fochtman will contact them regarding possible classes
Peak Software: Recreation has started implementation of on-line registration.

Meeting Adjourned 8:38pm