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Acton Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Room 121
Acton Town Hall
January 4, 2011

Call to Order

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Ms. Karen Jarsky, Co-Chair, called meeting to order at 7:00PM. The following attendees were present: Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Karen Jarsky, Co-Chair, Ms. Kim Bodnar, Co-Chair, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commission Member, Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Commission Member, Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary.

Consent Agenda

Motion to accept December 14, 2010 minutes as amended, passed 4-0.

Citizens Concerns

Ms. Bettina Norton has requested to address the Board of Selectman regarding the noise at NARA Park.

Action Item

Ms. Fochtman will follow-up with the Town Manager regarding Recreation Commissioners attendance at the upcoming Board of Selectman meeting.

Annual Report

Ms. Fochtman has created a draft of the annual report for Ms. Bodnar to review. Ms. Jarsky suggested mentioning the "Friends of Acton" playground group within the annual report.

Spring & Summer Planning

The Acton Day event will not be occurring this year. Recreation would like to instead introduce a Blue Grass Festival. The Blue Grass Festival will be a full day event which will also include a classic car display. There will be barbeque vendors as well. MKTix will be the contact for purchasing tickets for this event. A returning band, Kasmir, will be returning June 2011; this will also be a ticketed event. A classical concert will also be scheduled. Recreation is hoping to schedule the Lexington Symphony Orchestra during 2012. Danny's Place in conjunction with local youth bands will be scheduled throughout the summer months. Brochures for NARA Camp will be distributed during the Merriam Camp Fair. NARA Camp rates will remain the same as last year. The musical "Cats" is scheduled for July; this will be a free event. There is the possibility of moving the Lions Club Fair to School Street rather than NARA due to visibility concerns. Ms. Fochtman is currently interviewing returning employees for NARA and will be advertising within local papers for a few additional seasonal positions. Acton 275th Anniversary event along with the Chinese New Year will be occurring on February 19, 2011. Particular portions of the Chinese New Year event will also require tickets. Upon conclusion, there will be a fireworks display. Recreation will cover the expenses of a police detail from 7:00pm to closing. Fireworks will be visible at Leary Field.

Action Item: Ms. Fochtman and Ms. Maura Haberman will be attending Quebec's Winter Carnival during the February 5, 2011 weekend. Ms. Jen Andersen has been hired as a full-time employee with Natural Resources and will be helping us with events.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Updates/Modifications

Ms. Fochtman has received responses from four (4) leagues within town regarding field needs. Acton-Boxborough Youth Baseball (ABYB) is interested in School Street being developed with a midsized ballfield. A question arose regarding Hart Field being redesigned as a midsized field however concerns exist regarding the wetlands surrounding that field. Ms. Bodnar provided information relating to both fields and playgrounds. Ms. Jarsky questioned whether Recreation should continue to list Elm Street as a playground. Ms. Fochtman believes it should remain as a playground as the playground equipment remains. Ms. Fochtman stated it is important to confirm the validity and increased usage of School Street for a long-term lease.

Reports

Elm Street: Nothing new to report.

Morrison Farm: North Acton and Morrison Farm garden plots are full. Both garden locations also maintain waitlists for those who would like to obtain plots. More garden use is desirable.

CPC: A possible extension of the Elm Street and the NARA Park Pavilion projects is hopeful.

School Street: The Lions Club Fair is possibly moving to this location for the summer of 2011.

Playgrounds: Ms. Fochtman provided a draft plan for the Goward Playground. This design is not qualified as a "Boundless" Playground. Ms. Jarsky will forward a prior survey sent to the resident onto the two (2) new Commissioners. Engineering will survey the playground(s) soon.

Peak Software: Nothing new to report.

New Business/Discussion January 8, 2011 is scheduled as the budget day with the Board of Selectman and FinCom. Recreation would like to obtain approval for a capital item to extend NARA's parking lot near the ballfield.

*All supporting and referenced documentation relating to these minutes are available on the DocuShare website;
<https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-1985>*