



Town of Acton
Recreation Commission

MINUTES -
DATE: APRIL 1, 2008

7:00 PM

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Mr. Ron Schlegel, Ms. Alison Gallagher and Ms. Karen Jarsky. Also present was Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director and Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary Note taker: Cheryl Getsick
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AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:10 PM

Citizens Concerns:

DISCUSSION	<p>T.J. O'Grady Skate Park Helmet Usage Ms. Fochtman raised a concern from a neighbor regarding children not wearing helmets.</p> <p>T.J. O'Grady Parking Signage A memo regarding signage prohibiting illegal parking at TJ O'Grady's needs to be submitted to the Selectman as it was not taken up by the board last October. This is a good opportunity for the league coaches to approach team parents and inform them parking at the skate park is not acceptable for league drop off or parking. A recommendation was made that signage would provide police the ability to ticket.</p> <p>Snow Fencing at NARA Park A concern was read by Ms. Fochtman regarding snow fencing that is usually placed along the outer part of the fields to keep the balls from entering the wooded areas around the outer fields.</p> <p>Golfing at NARA Park Mr. Shawn O'Malley has seen people hitting balls at NARA. Ms. Fochtman is recommending signage be placed at NARA preventing golfers from driving balls.</p>
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CONCLUSIONS	<p>T.J. O'Grady Skate Park Helmet Usage Mr. Schlegel reported there is no law requiring helmet usage. This is not an enforceable request. There is no way to enforce and implement this requirement.</p> <p>T.J. O'Grady Parking Signage Signage was previously recommended and approved by the Recreation Commission. Ms. Fochtman will resubmit a letter to Town Management seeking signage approval.</p> <p>Snow fencing at NARA Park The fencing had previously been installed in this location. It has since fallen down into the wet land area. Ms. Fochtman will review having the fencing reinstalled.</p> <p>Golfing at NARA Park A motion was made by Mr. Schlegel for recommendation to install signage stating, "Golfing Prohibited" at NARA Park. The motion was accepted 3-0. Ms. Fochtman will send recommendation to the Town Manager for approval.</p>
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	March 5 2008 minutes
CONCLUSIONS	March 5, 2008 minutes were accepted as written, 3-0

TOPIC: Review of Recreation Events

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman presented a handout to the Recreation Commissioners regarding upcoming events and gave a brief detail of each event.
	The Commissioners will respond regarding their ability to volunteer at the upcoming events.

TOPIC FIELD FEE DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION	An increase in fees is now being implemented and it appears some of the league users are somewhat surprised. The fee is approximately \$40.00 per field use, per day. The town field fees have been undercharged for a long period of time, and are now comparable with surrounding communities. Field fees are for field maintenance and operating costs. The Recreation Department feels these increased fees are still very reasonably priced. Ms. Fochtman noted a field request for Elm Street may not be a good location to perform baseball vs. softball. Mr. Mike Coppolino might have some suggestions on Elm Street for live pitching. AAU would not be little league kids therefore the balls will travel. Adult Softball League at Elm Street will occur 9:00AM - 5:00PM on Saturdays for the Adult Softball League.
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TOPIC RECREATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman suggested a candidate. She is part of the Teen Theater Group. The Recreation Commissioners have previously recommended sports league leaders. There is another potential candidate.
CONCLUSIONS	Volunteer of the year will be voted on in the May meeting.

REPORTS

DISCUSSION	<p>a) Elm Street Update A letter from the engineer, Mr. Nick Ferzacca was received verifying the lights currently meet the Town Bylaw. The Recreation Department needs to refurbish the ruts in the field. When the weather warms these repairs will be performed. The drainage at Elm street will be addressed. AASL and Mr. Shawn O'Malley will coordinate their efforts.</p> <p>b) Morrison Farm Update The twenty-four (24) Community Garden plots are now assigned. It will be fenced, access to water by a spigot and no use of herbicides or pesticides.</p> <p>c) CPC Town meeting occurs next week.</p> <p>d) Picnic Pavilion and an Elm Street Playground It would be beneficial for the residents of Indian Village to support this effort and vote.</p> <p>e) School Street – No report</p> <p>f) Playground Update Ms. Fochtman reported Boundless Playgrounds certifies playgrounds as fully handicap accessible. There is a \$125K grant that is being offered to a Metro West town. The focus of the grant is to engage the community in the development of the playground. Ms. Jarsky asked if it would be possible to request the Minuteman Arc Director to become involved as a partner. Ms. Fochtman noted contacting the Acton SPED Committee, chairperson Nancy Sherburne may be beneficial. Ms. Fochtman also commented if the SPED committee knew about this opportunity to provide input in the development of this playground there would be great response. The Commission on Disabilities could also be contacted. Ms. Jarsky would like to see the Commission publicize about this grant opportunity for support and funding. The Recreation Department could also offer community service hours to the high school for participating.</p> <p>There is an on-line form which can be accessed. Ms. Fochtman will pass this information onto the Town Manager and possibly complete the on-line form and begin the process. An East Acton playground site for Ice House Pond is another possibility for a location. The Acton Town Clerk was not able to provide a location on where most children reside that are not being serviced by a local playground. Ms. Fochtman will attempt to obtain this information as well via the town census.</p> <p>g) Open Space and Recreation Plan Ms. Fochtman is addressing some revisions to the plan. A request for volunteers to pull together some numbers and to get updates on various statuses. Ms. Gallagher volunteered to help. Mr. Schlegel asked if the Recreation Department could regularly monitor statistics for leagues.</p> <p>h) NARA Park 2008 Summer Operations Update Ms. Fochtman is soliciting new hires for lifeguarding and counselors. Returning employees are John Grant and Amanda Johansson and the new waterfront director, Adriane Shubert. There were a number of college graduates moving on and new hires as well.</p> <p>i) NARA Improvements Ms. Fochtman reported requested improvement costs from the \$247k to build a changing room behind amphitheater and repairing the front of the NARA stage were not considered. These requests were taken out of the budget for capital funding.</p> <p>Water restrictors on the outdoor showers should be installed.</p> <p>Mrs. Jarsky asked if swim diapers are sold at the snack bar. At one time we did. This is a good idea to implement. Ms. Fochtman will talk to Adriane about this suggestion.</p> <p>The playground spring riders have been fixed at NARA.</p> <p>j) Signage at Great Hill Ms. Fochtman reported signage for Great Hill Soccer Fields will be placed, "Children Play Here, Leash Your Dog"</p>
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION	Ms. Gallagher's term is up in June.
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Gallagher is not currently sure if she is allowed to continue on after June but will investigate prior to May's meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	9:00PM
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