



**TOWN OF ACTON
RECREATION COMMISSION**

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SEP 10 2012

MINUTES – JANUARY 10, 2012

6:45 PM

**ACTON TOWN HALL
ROOM 126
TOWN CLERK, ACTON**

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner, Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Vice-Chair, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Settiani, Natural Resources, note taker. Mr. Joe Will, Acton resident and member of Acton-Boxborough Youth Soccer Board, John Sonner, Selectman. Absent: Mr. Steve Leo, Commissioner, Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary.
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AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 6:45 PM

TOPIC: CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Goward Playground Platform Repair: A citizen called with a concern of falling through the platform. It has been repaired.
ACTION ITEM	Recreation Department is performing weekly checks of playground

TOPIC: CONSENT AGENDAS

DISCUSSION	November 8, 2011 minutes & December 6, 2011 minutes
ACTION ITEM	The November 8, 2011 minutes were accepted as amended, 3-0. The December 6, 2011 minutes were accepted as amended, 3-0.

TOPIC: ACTION ITEM REVIEW

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fochtman reported on the input she received from the OSRP sub-committee • Recreation objectives achieved; should be identified as Major Accomplishments • Recreation objectives not yet accomplished should be assessed as either "carry forward" or "abandoned" • Recreation 5 year plan should be updated with current initiatives • Current initiatives should respond to Section 7 "analysis of needs" • Should recreation 5 year plan remain as a separate document or incorporated into OSRP?
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TOPIC: FRIENDS OF THE LOWER FIELDS

DISCUSSION	Working with American Ramp Company/Hardcore Shotcrete Skateparks Inc. Have updated conceptual plan of the skate park to add new skate bowls. Recreation is awaiting cost estimates. Ms. Mercier along with Mr. Will reported Town Counsel is reviewing the FOLF application. FOLF has requested funding for the skate bowl, lighting and parking lot. CPC is considering the eligibility of these components. The skate bowl is definitely eligible. Commissioners voiced these concerns such as, "Who is the field serving? Is it going to work the way they presented in the project application? How will the skate park bowl design become integrated into the FOLF project?"
ACTION ITEM	Ms. Fochtman will attend the FOLF meeting this Friday to talk about the project.

TOPIC: UPDATES TO RECREATION FEE SCHEDULE AND AMPHITHEATER USE POLICY

DISCUSSION	Recreation Department proposed raising the rates for renting the Large Picnic Tent. The Commissioners agreed upon an adjustment in order to correct pricing disparity between this location and other picnic areas. Increase NARA Trail Fee \$50 per hour. This fee will be charged for groups that
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	want to use the trail to run events; particularly fundraisers.
ACTION ITEM	Ms. Fochtman will work on revising the fee for renting the NARA Amphitheater in preparation of the next meeting.

TOPIC: NARA PLAYGROUND SHADE STRUCTURE FUNDING

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-standing goal. • AAD Grant available for \$8K, may be others available. • Structure itself costs \$20K and installation costs • Healthy Communities/ CHNA15: Coalition of towns that work together on health initiatives... possible grant. • Mr. Sonner suggested planting trees that would mature by the time a man made structure will reach the end of its useful life.
ACTION ITEM	Commissioners will research other public playgrounds with shade structures.

TOPIC: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2012-2017

DISCUSSION	Ms. Jarsky sent in a wish list of what she wants accomplished. Other commissioners will send in their wishes to Ms. Fochtman.
ACTION ITEM	Ms. Fochtman will write a draft 5 year plan to present at next month's meeting.
NEW BUSINESS	Mr. Sonner reported the Senior Center Building Committee asked if the possible new building will be a Senior Center or Community Center. The Board of Selectmen has requested that Recreation representation be added to the Senior Center Committee to consider the design of a Community Center. The commissioners were invited to volunteer.

REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Elm Street</i>- Ernie's Excavating donated the labor of pouring of the cement slab for the building of the new storage shed. • <i>Morrison Farm</i> – Looking for new water supply. Currently looking into having a well installed and seeking funding for it. • <i>CPC</i> – Nothing to report • <i>School Street</i>-The current lease agreement provides up to 4 years to draft a multi-year lease, with the option to renew annually until then. The lease for 2012 is again for one year. The agreement expires in December, 2012. • <i>Playgrounds</i>- NARA playground surfacing improved. Mr. Jay Redmond installed a new drainage system and added new playground mulch purchased by the Recreation Department. Ms. Jarsky suggested adding a handicap accessible playground to the Miracle League plans with a poured rubber surfacing. Ms. Jarsky suggested having a fundraiser at Robbins Mill to make people more aware of that playground. • <i>Goward Playground</i> funding under way, currently raised over \$11K • <i>Open Space and Recreation Plan</i>, noted above • <i>NARA Picnic Pavilion</i> – Ms. Fochtman provided justification to the CPC to retain \$250K awarded in 2008. The Recreation Department has purchased design and construction plans from Kang Associates and can put the project out to bid upon approval by the Town Manager. • <i>Recreation Operations</i> – Upcoming Event: Winter Carnival, Saturday, February 4, 2012, 1-4pm. Recreation Commissioners invited to volunteer.
MEETING ADJOURNED:	8:25 PM

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