



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

MINUTES

DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2009

7:00 PM

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Karen Jarsky, Ms. Kim Bodnar, Mr. Frank Calore and Mr. Ron Schlegel. Also present were Selectman, Michael Gowing, Citizen, Mr. Stephen Leo, Recreation Director, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, and Secretary, Ms. Cheryl Getsick. Note taker: Ms. Cheryl Getsick
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AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM

Citizens Concerns:

DISCUSSION	Goward Playground Safety, Mr. Stephen Leo (Citizen) shared his presentation with the Commissioners regarding safety concerns at the Goward Playground. The Commissioners, Ms. Fochtman and Mr. Gowing welcomed Mr. Leo and his participation in helping to address the playground needs, both short and long term. The Recreation Commission will review a variety of matters, including the playgrounds at the upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for on Monday, Oct. 19, 2009.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	August 4, 2009 minutes
CONCLUSIONS	August 4, 2009 minutes accepted as amended

TOPIC: Recreation Chair

DISCUSSION	Mr. Schlegel informed the Commission due to term limits, he is leaving the Commission. He requested a volunteer to serve as Chair and he would be glad to assist in the transition at the upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for October 19, 2009. Selectman Gowing offered to represent Recreation at CPC meetings however, another Commissioner is needed for voting purposes. Mr. Schlegel recommended Ms. Jarsky as the short-term Chairperson as she has the longest tenure and has regularly attended commission meetings.
CONCLUSIONS	Mr. Schlegel expressed his enjoyment working with several Recreation Directors. Ms. Fochtman will follow up with a potential citizen who had expressed some interest in the Commission.

TOPIC: NARA YOUTH & BEACH

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported the season's official end date was August 26, 2009. There was a beach closure due to water quality late in the season. There are monies available to install an aeration system at the beach for next year. Ms. Jarsky inquired as to the financial status of the summer. Ms. Fochtman stated with an enrollment reduction of approximately 1/3 from the prior year, it was fiscally tight. NARA Youth usually has a steady stream of registrations however; this year was lower than normal. There were too many staff personnel at the beginning of the season. Distribution of limited hours was necessary this season. Many staff members were given a week furlough.
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Fochtman will review the figures in anticipation of next summer with a possible consideration of a cost adjustment as well.

TOPIC: T.J. O'GRADY SKATE PARK

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported a lot of feedback has been received from the local Police Department this summer. There has been vandalism such as tagging, destruction of the fencing. Authorities have not been successful in apprehending the suspects. Recreation has replaced the broken fence with stone boulders.
CONCLUSIONS	Mr. Schlegel requested more of a Police presence at the park.

TOPIC: PLAYGROUND REPORT

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman distributed a document which she would like to present to the Board of Selectmen indicating how the Recreation Committee would like to fund playgrounds in the future. There is a desire to implement repairs and replacements immediately. There is the need to replace the post & rail fence surrounding the playground at NARA as there is a safety concern. Additionally, there is the need to replace the ball field netting at Jones Field as well as safety upgrades needed at the Goward playground. Selectman Gowing suggested some shade trees being planted at the playgrounds. Ms. Fochtman informed the Commissioners she met with the Commission on Disabilities and reviewed each of the playgrounds. When repairing or when creating a new playground, Recreation will consider handicap accessibility.
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Fochtman would like to review this in advance with Ms. Jarsky and Mr. Schlegel prior to the Board of Selectman meeting. Selectman Gowing suggested providing a "grading" system of the playgrounds to the Board of Selectman indicating the priority of the repairs and why.

TOPIC: REPORTS

DISCUSSION	<p>A) Elm Street Update – Nothing to report b) Morrison Farm Update – Kelleher Architecture provided various options on developing the property and repairing/replacing the barn and home. There is the potential of extending the community gardens. Parking is a concern. c) CPC – Nothing to report d) NARA Park Improvements – There is an “Alumni” concert scheduled for October 11, 2009. All work has been completed at the multi-use room located next to the Amphitheater. e) School Street – Ms. Fochtman reports there has been no movement on the multi-year lease. f) Open Space and Recreation Plan - Nothing to report g) Playground Update – Previously discussed</p>
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION	Nothing to report
MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	8:50 PM