



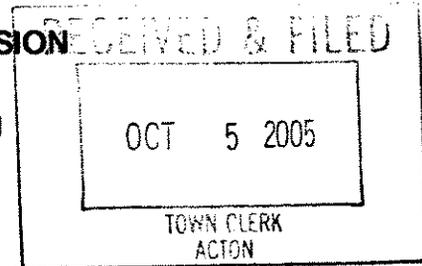
FYI

RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

September 6, 2005

Acton Town Hall, Room 126



Recreation Commission members Mr. Ron Schlegel, Ms. Alison Gallagher, Ms. Michele Zaremba, Ms. Sasha O'Connell and Mr. Matthew Lundberg were present. Also present were Ms. Alison Trout, Recreation Director, Mr. Tom Tidman, Natural Resources Director, and Ms. Maura Haberman, Recreation Secretary.

Mr. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. Mr. Schlegel introduced and welcomed Ms. Alison Trout as Acton's new Recreation Director. Ms. Trout informed the Commission left her position at Gordon College where she worked as the Director for both the Recreation and Athletic Programs. Mr. Schlegel also welcomed Sasha O'Connell as a full-member of the Commission.

I. A. Minutes, June 7, 2005

Minutes of June 7, 2005 were unanimously approved as written.

B. Recreation Commission Meeting Dates, 2006

A motion was made by Mr. Schlegel and unanimously approved by the Recreation Commission for the following meeting dates for 2006, with a time change to 7PM beginning Oct. 4, 2005.

Meetings will be on Tuesdays at 7PM:

January 3, 2006	February 7, 2006	March 7, 2006
April 11, 2006	May 9, 2006	June 6, 2006
July 11, 2006	August 8, 2006	September 5, 2006
October 3, 2006	November 7, 2006	December 5, 2006

C. Citizen's Concerns

The Commission had a discussion regarding concerns brought to the attention of the beach staff by patrons at NARA Park over the summer.

1) *Better advertisement of the Park and membership information.* More outreach would be worked on. 2) *Making a senior daily rate.* Ms. Gallagher mentioned that a daily senior rate would be good, as it is done elsewhere. Mr. Schlegel would like to see beach rates more affordable to increase the membership rate. Two years ago there was an increase in beach rates. Ms. Gallagher recommended that a study of the beach memberships over the last couple of years be completed and new rates be made for next year. 3) *Possibly an informational packet/brochure on history of NARA.* Common questions asked are: *Where does the water come from and flow to? Is your water filtered? How big is NARA Park? Where do you get your sand from? How was the Pond made?* Mr. Tidman showed a sample photo of a banner flag which described fish in a pond and other relevant facts. Ms. Gallagher suggested an informational board made of wood with plexiglass with park information. Ms. Haberman will bring the beach memberships figures and rates from the 2005 season to the next scheduled meeting.

II. NARA SUMMER PROGRAM:

Ms. Haberman commented that this year's summers program at NARA went very well as reported to her from Anthony Sperazzo. This year's program was one less week than the prior year due to the school calendar.

III. ACTON DAY:

Ms. Haberman reported that the Recreation Department had sought volunteers for Acton Day and still need more. Ms. Zaremba mentioned contacting Annette Lockrey for ABRHS volunteers. Ms. Trout is working on having a table at Acton Day for Red Cross donations for

relief efforts from Hurricane Katrina. She will also be sending an email out to all town sports to remind them there are no permits over the weekend and to please schedule no games or practice over Acton Day weekend so families can support this community event.

IV. WOODLANDS AT LAUREL HILL:

Mr. Tidman reported that public recreation is limited at Woodlands. Mr. Schlegel stated that not a lot of the Recreation's recommendations were done. This developer had given a lot of funding to a new public safety building. Mr. Schlegel attended a meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Trout will be sending a letter on behalf of the Commission asking about the playground and recreation area.

V. Reports:

A. Morrison Farm: Ms. Gallagher reported that the committee has not met, but is due to meet soon. Mr. Schlegel would like Ms. Gallagher to let the committee know that Recreation still places a high priority on Morrison Farm and that the Recreation Commission may be looking to develop Morrison Farm 3-5 years down the road.

B. Leary Field: Mr. Lundberg reported that Leary Field was completed early and went well. The project was more money than budgeted and was funded through the Friends of Leary Field. The total amount was \$815,000 as opposed to \$750,000. The track needed to be resurfaced and the Track Boosters raised \$8,000. There were minimal contractor issues. The Recreation Department will have use of Leary Field for 8 weeks next summer.

C. CPA: Mr. Lundberg reported that the 2006 plan is drafted and available to view on-line. Proposals are due November 14, 2005. Mr. Lundberg is now Chairman of the CPC and there is one associate position open. The CPC has their overview meeting with the Board of Selectmen November 1. They would like to suggest an increase to the levy from 1.5% to 3% so there is enough money in funding to match. The largest project at this time is the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. There is not a lot for historical, housing or open space. Mr. Tidman reported that the Open Space Committee is actively discussing purchasing 5 acres from Dr. Mary Donald on Taylor Road. Another project that would be good for recreation which was brought up was to repair the Potato Cave; however, getting the support was an uncertainty at this point. Mr. Lundberg will know more in 2-3 weeks. The Community Preservation funds are good for three years and then they would need renewed

D. T.J. O'Grady Skate Park: Mr. Tidman reported that there will be a grand opening once the ramps are completed. Mr. Schlegel will update more on the skate park at the next meeting. Mr. Tidman reported that the concrete is completed and should setup in 20-25 days and would like to wait a couple of weeks. The parking lot will be ready to pave by the end of the week. All paving should be completed by the end of September. The ramps need to meet code and are moving at a slow speed. Mr. Walter Foster, Selectmen, seemed confident that the ramps will get certified, as told by a Commission member. Springtime will be the "official" opening.

New Business & Discussion:

1. Membership: Mr. Schlegel informed the Commission the positions for the Recreation Commission are 5 full members and 2 associate members. At this time, there are two associate member positions available.

2. Former Recreation Director: Mr. Schlegel reported a successful evening social gathering where former and current Recreation Commission members were able to bid farewell to Nancy McShea, former Acton Recreation Director, at a concert at NARA on August 25. Mr. Tidman would like to have a tree planted in honor of Ms. McShea for her dedication to Recreation at NARA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.