



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

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JUN 20 2007

TOWN CLERK
ACTON

**MINUTES
MAY 1, 2007**

7:00 PM

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Mr. Ron Schlegel, Ms. Alison Gallagher, Mr. Matthew Lundberg, Ms. Karen Jarsky, and Mr. Jon Benson. Also present were Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director and Ms. Maura Haberman, Events Coordinator/Administrative Assistant. Mr. Frank Calore was not present.
NOTE TAKER	Maura Haberman, Events Coordinator/Administrative Assistant

Agenda topics

CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported that Acton citizen, Mr. Lessard, called the Department to report that a Jeep had been driving within the grassed area at NARA Park on Sunday, April 29. This incident was not called into the Acton Police Department.
CONCLUSIONS	Try to limit accessibility to inner area of NARA Park and the inner road from vehicles.

RECREATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

DISCUSSION	Mr. Schlegel sought recommendations for Recreation Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Fochtman made a recommendation for a candidate who stood-out in many areas of Recreation over the past year, who helped directly with the department and community to enhance both with programs and youth leagues. He has been a great asset to Acton Recreation.
CONCLUSIONS	The candidate nominated for Recreation Volunteer of the Year by Ms. Fochtman and 2 nd by Ms. Gallagher, passed 5-0. The award will be presented at the July 4 th festivities at NARA Park.

CONSENT AGENDA—MINUTES, APRIL 3, 2007

	The Minutes of April 3, 2007 were approved as written, 5-0
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PLAYGROUND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported that there is an old structure at Elm Street which is in need of replacement. At the Elm Street Park, netting needs to be repaired and playground mulch needs replacement. There have been neighborhood groups near Indian Village which have expressed interest in wanting to help put a new playground in place. The School Street structure was taken down which consisted of a swing set, slide, and tower that was not up to code. The Goward Playground (behind the library) needs to be maintained. The playground was built in 1996-1997, and needs upgrading. It has a mixed response from the public—favorable for its age friendliness. Mr. Schlegel inquired if the playground is up to code.
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Fochtman is planning on attending a playground safety course so she may become better educated with safety codes. Mr. Schlegel would like to see the playgrounds prioritized. Ms. Jarsky will assist with the playgrounds. Ms. Fochtman will be seeking 2008 CPC funding for playground needs. In the near future, Ms. Fochtman plans to visit the City of Cambridge with Ms. Lisa Franklin, from the Commission on Disabilities, to see a Handicap Accessible Playground. Ms. Jarsky would also like to attend the meeting.

TOWN HALL UPDATE

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported that Acton Town Manager, Don Johnson, is retiring after 35 years of which 21 years were served as Acton's Town Manager. Mr. Benson inquired if an interim has been named. Ms. Fochtman reported not to her knowledge.
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SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman and Ms. Haberman briefly reported upcoming events: Fishing Derby, Golf Tournament, Welcome Coffee, Liberty Big Band, and T.J. O'Grady Skate Park 1-Year Opening
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CONCLUSIONS Recreation Commissioners will assist with many of the events and brief details were discussed.

REPORTS

Morrison Farm: Ms. Gallagher reported that \$50,000 was appropriated at Town Meeting for a feasibility study on the quality of the house and barn.

CPC: Mr. Benson reported they met last week briefly for a mop up reconciliation. CPC has many meetings scheduled throughout the summer, as the year starts July 1. Ken Skia Hughes will be chairman next year.

School Street: Ms. Fochtman reported that Don Johnson met with the state about the CPC project funding and hasn't heard about the end result yet.

Elm Street Lights: Ms. Fochtman announced they are about to name the bid winner this week. They seem to have a clear winner, with two alternate selected.

TJ O'Grady Skate Park Updates: Ms. Fochtman reported that there will be a 1-year opening anniversary celebration on Sat. June 23 from 5-9 PM. WAAF has donated \$5,000 worth of street team music and prizes from 5-7 PM. The department is working on trying to finish the park in time for this celebration.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman updated the Commission about flags being left by dog feces posing hazards to both children and equipment and offensive dog sign postings.
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Fochtman phoned Mr. Lessard and asked him to stop his sign posting and flagging of dog feces.
DISCUSSION	Mr. Schlegel would like to move, if possible, the next Recreation Commission meeting from June 5 to June 12.
	The meeting adjourned at 8:43PM.