



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

MINUTES DATE: **JULY 8, 2008**

7:00 PM

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Mr. Ron Schlegel, Mr. Frank Calore, Ms. Karen Jarsky. Also present were Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director and Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary.
NOTE TAKER	Ms. Cheryl Getsick

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SEP - 9 2008
 TOWN CLERK
 ACTON

AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: **7:00pm**

CITIZENS CONCERNS:	Colonial Baseball Program
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CONCLUSIONS
 A child enrolled within the Colonial Baseball clinic, organized by Mr. Steve Donovan, was injured. Ms. Cathy Fochtman was contacted by the child's mother. The mom of the injured child reported, through her son, was injured during the clinic yet she did not receive a phone call. Upon learning of his injury at pick-up, she brought her son to the doctor. It was determined he had a broken nose. Ms. Cathy Fochtman noted a similar incident occurred last year during the same baseball clinic. Ms. Cathy Fochtman noted that she also spoke with Mr. Donovan about the incident last year. Ms. Cathy Fochtman will contact the mom and Mr. Donovan tomorrow to follow-up.

CONSENT AGENDA	June 2008 Minutes
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CONCLUSIONS
 June 2008 minutes were accepted as amended, 3-0

AGENDA #1	NARA Projects
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CONCLUSIONS
 Ms. Cathy Fochtman reported the end of year expenditures have been all approved. Mr. Bill Thomas, an electrician for the town, is scheduled to install an expanded circuit board and add some thermostats. Currently there is no way to control the heat. Additionally, the Recreation Department has made the switch from Coke to Pepsi. The Coke refrigerator cooler was drawing a lot of energy. Pepsi has a smaller size unit which is more energy efficient. A vending machine was also installed at the amphitheater. Pepsi will take care of stocking this vending machine for us.

Amphitheater excavation will be performed by Lincoln Tree. The ground around the amphitheater will be removed approximately 18 inches; drainage will then be installed. Irrigation will follow and completed with suitable loam and sod. This improvement will make a very big difference on performances.

Approval to proceed with a shed/changing room along with a snack bar area behind the amphitheater was granted. The Recreation Department is working on specifications for a bid package. The design consists of a saltbox shaped shed with double doors on the pond side along with another double door on the opposite side. A small window on the side that faces the front of the stage is recommended. Recreation will find this useful as a small ticket area and snack bar. The slanted area is suitable for storing items. Recreation has purchased 300 chairs which have been placed on carts and can be pulled around. Lighting and sound equipment will also be properly secured within the shed as well. There are also a lot of miscellaneous items which will help maintain NARA such as; a new electric John Deere Gator vehicle. It will replace the Cushman unit which is often broken down. A weed-wacker, generator and other items will also be purchased and stored.

Mr. Frank Calore asked how the bee situation was affecting NARA this year. Ms. Fochtman noted the bee's are not too bad, however a more significant problem is the geese. Ms. Fochtman also noted two shade structures have also been ordered. Ms. Karen Jarsky asked where the locations for the shade structures would be. Ms. Fochtman stated the shade structures will be placed on the beach and on the upper field.

AGENDA	Field Scheduling Meeting
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CONCLUSIONS
 Ms. Cathy Fochtman relayed to the Commissioners a list of questions which were asked during a recent meeting. Ms. Cathy Fochtman informed meeting attendees a letter would soon be sent out to them discussing the implementation of the field fee implementation. There were a lot of questions. The attendees want to have another meeting where they could voice their opinions and conduct an open discussion. Mr. Ron Schlegel noted the leagues seem to be voicing the same concerns as they shared in the past. The Recreation Commission provided five (5) months notice dating back to February 2008. Mr. Ron Schlegel noted the contributions are sparse and a major concern is that the leagues solely decide what the monies will be spent on; however the Town of Acton owns the land. Mr. Schlegel will attend the next meeting. Ms. Cathy Fochtman noted liability coverage as well, was an issue. Ms. Cathy Fochtman will propose July 14th, 2008 as a meeting date which will be held at the Acton Memorial Library. Mr. Ron Schlegel will create a structured agenda which Ms. Cathy Fochtman will send out to attendees.

AGENDA	July 4th Event
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CONCLUSIONS
 Ms. Cathy Fochtman commented the event was great! The Air Force Liberty Big Band was fabulous! Officer Bob Cowen estimated an approximation of 12-14 thousand attendees. All food vendors did wonderful business while Recreation received donations and sold glow sticks. Staff shirts were provided to Recreation Staff as this helped with the collection of donations. Ms. Karen Jarsky commented a possible raffle could raise monies. Mr. Ron Schlegel noted the fireworks donations were received from both Donelons and Goulds in the amount of \$6K each. The fire detail is additional expense. In addition, the costs of fuel for the buses were more expensive this year.

AGENDA

Acton Teen Repertory Theater

CONCLUSIONS

Ms. Cathy Fochtman provided the Commissioners with a program from the Acton Teen Repertory Theatre play production of Beauty and the Beast. She noted this was the department's first outdoor theater presentation. Three performances were held. There were a lot of overhead expenses in performing a "Disney" production. Some costumes and staging was obtained by renting them from Maynard High School's theater performance. The next performance, West Side Story, is scheduled for January 2009. Ms. Mary Spinosa-Wilson is the Director and in charge of theater production. The production is open to all; anyone who enrolls is in the production is guaranteed a role. The production is free to attend. Due to an overwhelming enrollment, West Side Story registration is now closed. Ms. Mary Spinosa-Wilson is now exploring the possibility of not running the programs financially under the Recreation Department. The concern is that rehearsal space is free because of the involvement of Recreation. The Recreation Department provided \$30K in resources for the Beauty and the Beast production. Mr. Frank Calore noted the use of NARA Park's facilities by themselves would be expensive.

AGENDA

Commission Membership

CONCLUSIONS

Mr. Ron Schlegel noted we are looking for at least two (2) associate members and one (1) full time member for the Commission. The discussion of proposing that sports league members join the Commission and become more involved may be a possibility. Ms. Cathy Fochtman will contact the VCC about publicity of these positions.

AGENDA

REPORTS

Elm Street Update - The lights are now working properly.

Morrison Farm Update

Morrison Farm will be on the agenda at the next Board of Selectmen meeting. Discussion of possibly obtaining an architectural firm to study the buildings from a previously issued Request for Proposal. Mr. Frank Calore asked if Ice House Pond is considered part of Morrison Farm. Ms. Cathy Fochtman noted is considered part of the Recreation Department; therefore the pond is part of the recreation facilities. Ms. Cathy Fochtman also noted that one thought is to have a new playground and parking lot at Ice House Pond which would then funnel to parking on the Morrison Farm property. In addition, the rail trail will come on-line soon on the other side of Ice House Pond.

CPC - Presently, no updates at this time.

School Street

Ms. Cathy Fochtman commented Sid Mazolla (Interbandits) asked about future plans for School Street. He has offered to contribute towards improvements. She has heard positive reports about the Interbandits and their ability to follow through with cleaning the fields after usage.

Playground Update

Ms. Cathy Fochtman and Ms. Karen Jarsky met with a representative from Game Time. Game Time is a vendor for playground equipment. Game Time will provide a quote for the Elm St. Playground. Ms. Jarsky noted the playground will be geared towards smaller children since the older children have access to the school playgrounds as well.

Open Space and Recreation Plan - No updates at this time

NARA Summer Operation

Ms. Fochtman noted enrollment and the program is going very well. The weeks during the middle of the summer are the popular weeks. Currently, NARA has two counselors who are dedicated solely to preschool kids. Ms. Cathy Fochtman noted she has hired staff that had prior preschool experience and her desire to hire staff with that type of background in the future.

Ms. Cathy Fochtman noted E. coli test results of the pond have been on the rise this year. Surrounding towns with ponds have closed. There is a larger presence of geese this year and it is hard to keep them off the beach due in part to people continually feeding the geese. The groundskeeper cleans up bags of droppings each morning off the beach before he begins his daily routine. In addition, the water level is lower than it normally would be. The Board of Health has received elevated higher levels and the testing is accelerating. Ms. Cathy Fochtman noted Recreation is trying to run an aerator pump which circulates cooler water towards the beach, hopefully helping to alleviate the situation as bacteria does not flourish in the colder water.

Mr. Frank Calore asked what the procedure is for opening camp up each day, with concern about situations that have occurred to young people like Molly Bish. Ms. Cathy Fochtman noted the groundskeeper arrives first. There is a 1/2 hour pre-care option for children who attend camp however the groundskeeper arrives before the staff. The on-site director shows up first and the waterfront staff does not come there until later in the morning. Ms. Cathy Fochtman has requested more of a police presence at NARA. There have been people who should not be there after hours. The Police Department is now patrolling via cycling in the area.

DISCUSSION

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

AGENDA

August 2008 Recreation Commission Meeting

CONCLUSIONS

The Commissioners determined that they would not meet in August due to vacation conflicts. Therefore, the next Commissioners meeting will be held on September 2, 2008.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:

8:35pm