



# Town of Acton Recreation Commission

MINUTES DATE: JUNE 3, 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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 JUL 18 2008  
 TOWN CLERK  
 ACTON

## AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00pm

CITIZENS CONCERNS:	Interior Road at NARA Park
CONCLUSIONS	<p>Ms. Fochtman reported a complaint was received from a resident who resides on Quarry Road. The complaint was regarding a film crew from India who were driving to fast down the interior road. The crew was obtaining their equipment and driving to and from the site location on the interior road.</p> <p>The person who held the permit was not present. The police were also called by the resident. Ms. Fochtman requested the president of the organization contact the resident and apologize. Ms. Fochtman also noted other concerns of girl's youth softball utilizing the interior road when they shouldn't. Ms. Fochtman will also speak with Mr. Tidman; Director of Natural Resources, regarding a visual barrier which is needed. There are concerns regarding pedestrian getting hit. Possibly looking at a post that stands up and restricts vehicles from entering the area. Mr. Schlegel noted the time of day these disturbances are occurring day/evening and possibly hiring a site manager to monitor as more issues arise from mid April to October. Ms. Fochtman raised an additional concern of the weekends being more difficult to monitor when the lifeguards go home at the end of the day.</p>
CONSENT AGENDA	May 2008 minutes
CONCLUSIONS	May 2008 minutes were accepted as amended, 3-0
AGENDA #4	Board of Selectmen Meeting
CONCLUSIONS	Mr. Calore requested we maintain this topic for agenda during the October meeting. Ms. Fochtman commented she has heard a general overview. Mr. Schlegel noted a report of the "dog situation" should be mentioned. Mr. Calore stated no matter where the dogs are located, citizens always assume to contact Recreation to file a complaint. Mr. Schlegel noted this has been discussed extensively over years past however it continues to need readdressing. Possibly requesting the expansion of the animal control officer's hours as well.
AGENDA #5	Handicap Accessible Playground
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Fochtman visited a handicap accessible playground located in Cambridge. The playground cost was approximately \$1.5M to construct. The playground overlooked a sod playing field however it was not too large but space was ample for the children to play on. There was a single tennis court overlooking a street of housing. Cambridge officials incorporated a lot of "art" into the playground. Large chairs made out of fabricated metal were attractive along with lots of sculpture incorporated into the playground. The playground had a combo of wood fiber mulch and solid surfacing. Lisa Franklin, commission on disabilities provided a guided tour. Mr. Calore asked if wheelchairs are able to cross over mulched areas on a playground; Ms. Fochtman responded yes. Mr. Schlegel asked how funding was provided; Ms. Fochtman responded the city of Cambridge. Ms. Fochtman noted access onto the equipment had landings where a child could get off a wheelchair and onto the structure. The manufacturer of the equipment is located in Europe. It was the plastic style formed look but somewhat different than what we see around here.
AGENDA #6	Field Fee Discussion
CONCLUSIONS	<p>Ms. Fochtman noted receiving negative feedback being received. Monday Night Quarterbacks totaled \$600 hundred dollars for three sets of dates at three different locations. She also noted there has been no charge at all during the prior two years. Previously, a one time charge of \$150 was applied and received. Ms. Fochtman noted there is a lot of damage done to the fields. A certificate of liability is also requested. Mr. Schlegel noted there are approximately 100 children and for many years there were no fees applied. Ms. Jar sky stated that exemptions to the fees should not be provided because all leagues will begin requested exemptions for one reason or another. Ms. Fochtman stated the leagues may possibly go to Boxborough. Ms. Fochtman is scheduled to attend a Field Scheduling meeting tentatively scheduled for next Monday. Ms. Fochtman requested a Recreation Commissioner attend the meeting with her. Mr. Schlegel volunteered.</p> <p>Ms. Fochtman also noted ABYB also raised concerns. She responded to ABYB by informing them it brings the fees more closely to what surrounding towns charge. Ms. Jarsky asked if there is any way to give them a reduced rate for the remainder of this year and begin charging them in full next year. Mr. Schlegel noted that the announcement was made early in the year. Ms. Fochtman noted we are not charging per player, per season as other towns. We are charging them the field permit; it's one or the other, not both. Mr. Schlegel noted that a grace period may be considered however let's bring the information which Sudbury provided to the meeting with the leagues.</p>

<b>AGENDA #7</b>	<b>REPORTS</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b>a) Elm Street Update</b>  There was a lightening strike at Elm Street. It knocked down a lot of the lighting. Ms. Fochtman contacted Mr. Jack Blaze who installed the lighting at Elm Street. Mr. Blaze attempted to replace a part which Musco, the manufacturer suggested be replaced. Remotely, Musco can diagnose which part of the unit is not working. Musco was able to isolate what was wrong. Mr. Blaze attempt did not correct the issue. Mr. Blaze recommended another contractor named, "Island Power and Light". Ms. Fochtman contacted Island Power and Light noted there was a significant problem. It was their claim the voltage was not safe. They suggested a new ground was needed going to and from the electrical box. Ms. Fochtman contacted the original installer to review Elm street. It was determined the system at Elm street is different than the system at Veterans field. Unlike Veterans field, a fault on a Delta system will not shut it down. The system at Elm street was determined to be safe. A letter will be sent to Ms. Fochtman recommending changing the Delta to a "Y" system. If there is a fault on a Delta system there is no indicator stating where to fix the fault whereas a "Y" system everything will trip everything. Mr. Schlegel asked if the lights are currently operating. Ms. Fochtman responded yes, as of now the lights are working with one exception. The lights have to be manually shut off. The wiring inspector from the building department is also concerned about a "Delta" system verse a "Y" system for a ball field. Ms. Fochtman will keep all informed.</p> <p><b>b) Morrison Farm Update</b>  Everything at Morrison Farm is up and running.</p> <p><b>c) CPC</b>  Mr. Schlegel noted the neighborhood support pledge and requested if we are in contact with Mira. Mr. Schlegel is concerned there is a soft pledge and would like to secure this before time goes by. Ms. Fochtman and Ms. Jarsky will speak with Mira. Ms. Fochtman noted Mira is involved with the 5K during Acton Day. Ms. Fochtman informed Mira monies would have to be raised from registration fees. Ms. Jarsky will contact Mira and remind her that Acton Day will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Ms. Fochtman requested when cross country utilizes NARA if there is any possibility to avoid painting the grounds that would be very important. Painting the grass is acceptable but painting anything else would not be acceptable. Mr. Calore agreed and will contact Mr. Steve Desy at the High School who will inform cross country.</p> <p><b>d) School Street</b>  A Kilder nest is located in the middle of the circle at this time. It is hoped the birds will be moving along soon.</p> <p><b>e) Playground Update</b>  No updates at this time.</p> <p><b>f) Open Space and Recreation Plan</b>  No updates at this time</p> <p><b>g) NARA Summer Operation</b>  Ms. Fochtman noted the current enrollment figures have exceeded last year's enrollment.</p> <p><b>h) NARA Improvements</b>  Ms. Fochtman reported the Board of Selectmen meeting occurred last night. Mr. Tidman attended and reported Recreation is requesting \$183K to install a changing room, a storage area and snack bar behind the amphitheater. Upgrades are needed to the front of the amphitheater as well. There is a need for electrical upgrades at the snack bar currently. There is not enough capacity on the current system. An ice machine is needed and the current electrical will not support these needs. Additionally, the heaters run continually which is a waste of energy. The installation of thermostats will allow shut off when not in use. Mr. Tidman also reported there is new equipment needed such as grass mowers, shade structures and life guard chairs. Ms. Jarsky requested a shade structure be placed over the playground. Mr. Calore asked if Recreation would be purchasing a new tent to replace the tent which was damaged. Ms. Fochtman reported yes, the Board of Selectman approved those items and now the request will go to the finance committee for approval.</p>

**NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

<b>AGENDA #8</b>	<b>NARA Park &amp; TJ O'Grady's Skate Park</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Ms. Fochtman noted one of the boards is broken at the NARA Amphitheater. T.J. O'Grady's also had additional graffiti sprayed on the surface of the structures. Mr. Schlegel requested additional police presence be requested to deter potential vandals.
<b>AGENDA #8</b>	<b>Playgrounds</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Ms. Fochtman spoke about performing a review of town wide playground to determine where the need for updates is needed. Ms. Jarsky began mapping out locations however she requested if the town had the ability to provide a good map as to where the need for playgrounds are located. Ms. Fochtman recommended contacting Engineering. Ms. Fochtman mentioned a possibly of contacting a local real estate agent who may have maps showing local schools, playgrounds, etc... Ms. Jarsky will contact a local real estate agent.
<b>AGENDA #8</b>	Mr. Schlegel informed the Commission Mr. Jon Benson has requested to depart from the Commission. The Recreation Commission will be looking for at least one full member. Ms. Fochtman noted there may be a need to fill two positions if Ms. Gallagher departs as well. Mr. Schlegel will contact both Mr. Benson and Ms. Gallagher
<b>MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:</b>	8:35pm