Town of Acton
Recreation Commission

FYI

MINUTES -
DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 2009

7:00 PM **ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL**

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Mr. Ron Schlegel, Ms. Karen Jarsky, Mr. Frank Calore and Ms. Kim Bodnar. Also present was Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director and Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary Note taker: Cheryl Getsick

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AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM

Citizens Concerns:

DISCUSSION	No citizens concerns to report.

CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	January 3, 2009 minutes
CONCLUSIONS	January 3, 2009 minutes were accepted as amended, 4-0

TOPIC: Merriam Camp Fair

DISCUSSION	**Merriam Camp Fair** Recreation attended a fund raising event at the Merriam school. There were approximately one hundred (100) different camps which attended. Many people stopped to look at the various themed weeks which will be offered at the NARA Summer Youth Program this year. There were new inquiries as well as returnees.

TOPIC: NARA EVENTS

DISCUSSION	**Winter Carnival** Lots of warm foods as well as many activities scheduled. Recreation will be offering burgers and hot dogs. Crystal entertainment will be the Disc Jockey for the event. A few bonfires as well as a case of chestnuts for roasting will be available. Local town leagues will run some activities such as broomball. Curling demonstrations will take place at the beach. AASL will offer snowball tossing. Recreation will run the cardboard sled race. The Poi Fire Spinners will be performing as well as signatures by Wally, the Red Sox Mascot at the bathhouse. Dunkin Donuts will be providing free samples. A horse drawn hay cart ride will again be offered. Overflow parking will be on Quarry Road and Ledge Rock Road. Nice weather is expected. Requests for assistance were addressed to the commissioners.

TOPIC: ACTON TEEN THEATER REPRETORY THEATER

DISCUSSION	"Thoroughly Modern Millie" was performed at the Junior High School with a total of five (5) well attended performances. Concession profits goals were met.
CONCLUSIONS	This is the last production of the Acton Teen Repertory Theater offered through the Acton Recreation Department. Mary Spinosa-Wilson is continuing drama productions independently via her new company, "StarzNLightz".

TOPIC: ACTON RECREATION 2009 SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAM

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman provided a draft handout of the booklet for review. The facilities rental form has been updated. The moving of picnic tables from one location to another will no longer be offered. Recreation sought patron's comments about what they liked about NARA Park. The many positive comments were recorded onto a page in the program booklet. Various areas were noted for beach registration, swim lessons, etc.... A new form for Corporate outings at NARA has been added. Recreation is in the process of speaking to Town Counsel regarding documents needed to accompany the Corporate Outings form. Recreation will put out a request for caterers. Recreation is offering an "All inclusive" outing option. Tennis classes continue to be offered by Next Champions, whose programs run at the Elm Street location. Recreation is offering several clinics over the summer, utilizing Leary field for these events. The U.S. Sports Institute runs a week long multi-sport clinic, which includes cricket, flag football and rugby. Recreation will also have another organization, Falcon Sports, offering classes. These will be programs such as volleyball on the beach at NARA and Ultimate Frisbee. Continuing programs will be the Wolfpack Baseball Clinic, Field Hockey and Drawing Classes. Recreation will be offering a new series of cooking classes. Additionally, a new spring vacation program will be offered at NARA in April beginning at 9:00am – 4:00pm. Recreation is also offering a youth clinic for conditioning. This will consist of a series of three different workouts: general conditioning, speed and soccer conditioning. This program will be conducted by CBC Fitness. Marx Running will be organizing a 5K run on Sunday, May 23, 2009. Hybrid Farm is offering a horseback riding program. We are looking at Morrison Farm and being able to offer programs there in the future. Recreation is partnering with All Seasons Tennis Club to offer some adult tennis clinics. Acton

Adult Softball League (AASL) will be running their program through Acton Recreation again this year. A new martial arts class called, Zumba Fitness will be offered. Bus trips have not been as active lately. There is a cruise on the Tall Ships this coming summer. Currently there are approximately 21 registrations. A Special Event being held this summer is the Lions Club Fair from June 10–14, 2009. On the Saturday of this event, Danny's place will be performing, "the Danny's Juice Musical Festival. The U.S. Air Force Band, "After Burner" will also perform a concert.

Ms. Fochtman discussed charging admission for the 4th of July event. She did not receive any finalization on this discussion topic. Ms. Jarsky asked if Recreation can receive some type of assurance the Town of Acton along with the Budget Committee Celebrations Fund will help with the funding of the July 4th celebration. Mr. Calore also commented the, "Whitney Fund" may be an option to bring concerts to the town utilizing the fund to defer the costs. The fund provides cultural activities to the Town of Acton residents with free admission.

CONCLUSIONS

This draft program will be finalized, sent out to the printer and mailed by February 28, 2009.

TOPIC: TOWN BUDGET

DISCUSSION

Ms. Fochtman attended a Town Budget meeting on Saturday, February 7, 2009 for the Board of Selectman and the Finance Committee. She noted each town department has been informed to level fund their 2010 budget. The state is going to reduce aid by ten (10%) percent. It is not clear this reduction is going to affect each department. This would affect Recreation as well. Mr. Schlegel asked how well Recreation was able to support itself with monies raised last year via the various programs. Ms. Fochtman stated though the department met expectations, challenges remain because during the prior year, Recreation had to pay for the Elm Street lighting which significantly cut into Recreation's fund balances. Ms. Fochtman noted that Recreation does whatever is possible to maintain and enhance our fund balance.

Ms. Fochtman stated most programs do not generate significant profit. Recreation has had a lot of challenges such as repair of failing irrigation equipment and repair of Elm Street lights due to a lightning strike.

CONCLUSIONS

The Town of Acton was able to obtain insurance coverage for most of the Elm Street Lighting repair however all of these cut into Recreation's balance budget. Mr. Calore noted that the more successful our programs are the more the equipment becomes worn down.

REPORTS

DISCUSSION

a) Elm Street Update

Recreation has been talking with AASL. Commissioners want to make improvements to the softball field such as bringing in dirt to shape the field drainage along the baselines. A possible option is to have the Natural Resources Crew perform this. However the crew would not be able to install the drainage this upcoming spring due to their department being very busy.

b) Morrison Farm Update

An architect chosen by the Building Department provided favorable feedback regarding the condition of the home and barn. Possible reconstruction of the building for public space usage is being considered. The foundation of both the home and barn are in good condition. There is nothing official at this point regarding the usage of the buildings.

c) CPC

Ms. Fochtman gave an update regarding the School Street twin ballfield project which was approved in the year 2006. The CPC committee agreed it remains a viable project. Mr. Schlegel stated because the funds were already being used prior to the SJC Ruling, this remains a current project. The Town of Acton planner has asked Ms. Fochtman to come to the February 12, 2009 meeting and discuss the project and to provide updates. One of these two aspects of the project that have changed is the withdrawal of support by ABYS. It is thought prudent to remove the full size baseball field from the plans and use the space to expand the multiple purpose field area for soccer and lacrosse. It has become clear that irrigation of new fields is critical and that a greener approach to turf management is needed.

d) NARA Improvements

The amphitheater project changing room will be located in the back of the amphitheater. The town crew will perform the construction with the assistance of a local contractor who will pull all permits which are required. Approval has been granted. There is no plumbing needed however electrical will be installed. Locations for a small snack bar, storage area and a changing area have been designed.

e) Open Space and Recreation Plan

Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

Ms. Fochtman handed out copies of the Recreation report from the Annual Town Report. Printed materials will also be available for the Volunteer Information Night meeting with the League of Women voters.

CONCLUSIONS

Mr. Schlegel will come by and retrieve the documents for the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME: 8:45 PM