



**Town of Acton
Recreation Commission**

F Y I

MINUTES

DATE: AUGUST 4, 2009

7:00 PM

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES

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

AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM

Citizens Concerns:

DISCUSSION None to report

OCT 7

CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION July 7, 2009 minutes

CONCLUSIONS July 7, 2009 minutes accepted as amended

TOPIC: NARA BEACH

DISCUSSION

Beach attendance has increased with the good weather these past few weeks. Ms. Fochtman reports over the past month, Recreation has been working with the finance department to "tighten up" the process regarding monies collected at NARA beach and the snack bar. Finance is working with Recreation and other departments regarding "monetary controls". Ms. Allura Overstreet has been providing ten (10) hours per week, reviewing collected monies and the supporting documentation associated with funds.

CONCLUSIONS

The Waterfront Director has been great about implementing procedures which help with inventory control. Recreation is also working with a consultant in developing an inventory system for the snack bar.

TOPIC: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DISCUSSION

Ms. Fochtman reported on some upcoming events, requesting volunteers for these events. The NARA Beach Party Blast will be held on August 13th from 5:00 – 8:00pm. Following the Beach Blast will be Sri Lankin Day which is scheduled for August 15th from 5:00 – 9:00pm. There will be booths and dance / drumming 5:00-9:00pm. Recreation has scheduled "Acton Day" on September 12, 2009.

CONCLUSIONS

Ms. Bodnar may be able to help with the NARA Beach Party Blast event and will contact Ms. Fochtman. Ms. Jarsky is able to volunteer for the Sri Lankin Festival.

TOPIC: LIONS CLUB FAIR WRAP-UP

DISCUSSION

Ms. Fochtman and Ms. Maura Haberman met with members of the Lions Club. The feedback from the Lions Club members was very positive. The Lions Club members are looking forward to conducting the upcoming 2010 event at NARA as well. There could be a change in event dates; possibly the weeks leading up to the Fourth of July 2010. Mr. Calore asked about providing transportation as a possible amenity for next year's event. Ms. Fochtman agreed a shuttle bus would have been efficient. Mr. Steve Reubner, Manager of Acton Stop & Shop was able to provide grant monies to help cover the cost of the Pink Floyd Tribute Band. Those monies were provided directly to Recreation for the purpose of paying the band. Another consideration is the upcoming Town of Acton's 275th anniversary celebration. Recreation will meet with the Assistant Town Manager, Mr. John Murray who has recently met with local community groups.

CONCLUSIONS

The meeting with Mr. Murray will be scheduled within the upcoming weeks. The Town of Acton Police details, overtime and field maintenance repairs were also covered by the Lions Club. The damage to the edge of the playing field was repaired as well.

TOPIC: ATHLETIC FIELD PROJECT COORDINATION

DISCUSSION

Acton Boxborough Youth Soccer has been requesting information regarding maintenance of the fields. Ms. Fochtman has met with both Mr. Tom Tidman and Mr. Shawn O'Malley. ABYS paid for materials needed for "slice seeding" at Concord Road and NARA Fields. Mr. Calore stated that if seeding is done and then directly played on there is a strong possibility nothing will grow. Ms. Fochtman reported the Concord Road field has been "slice seeded". The weather has been cooperative as it has remained cool and wet. The Soccer league offered to cover the cost of seeding and Natural Resources accepted. Soccer set up an account to pay for the cost of the provider, material and supplies. Soccer spent Eight-Hundred Dollars (\$800.00) on the two field locations. Natural Resources slice-seeded approximately half of NARA field and placed caution tape around the area. Pop Warner began utilizing the fields this week. There was no contact between the Pop Warner league and Soccer league. Mr. Calore asked if Pop Warner contributes funding for the fields? Ms. Fochtman reported "No, however Pop Warner did contribute to the lighting on Elm Street." Recreation would like to avoid field usage conflicts when rehabilitating fields in the future by

	<p>coordinating a process where the field users are brought together during a Recreation Commission meeting and inform each league of the upcoming events and scheduled maintenance. Mr. Calore asked if there was a field which could be used to rotate participants while maintenance, such as slice seeding, is scheduled to be performed on other fields? Ms. Fochtman replied, "Unfortunately, not". Mr. Schlegel, "When fields are used a lot, it is then necessary to have repairs performed". Ms. Fochtman, "We want to compost as well, for the health of the soil". Ms. Jarsky expressed concerns as some leagues may or may not attend a meeting to discuss however Ms. Fochtman stated she feels people will come and this way everyone is kept in the loop as to what Recreation is or is not addressing during particular months. Mr. Schlegel noted that the usage by leagues on our fields is the same each year.</p>
<p>CONCLUSIONS</p> <p>TOPIC: REPORTS</p>	<p>Ms. Fochtman agreed to hold these meetings outside of the Recreation Commission meetings. It was determined in order to protect assets Recreation will rotate groups off the field, if needed.</p>
<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p>A) Elm Street Update – A Willow tree has fallen near the playground. Pop Warner will soon begin playing at Elm Street as well as AASL who is completing their season.</p> <p>b) Morrison Farm Update – No updates.</p> <p>c) CPC – There is a state bill named SB90 proposing changes to the CPA bylaws. There is an attempt to encourage change which would allow more cities to participate and to allow recreation spending to rehabilitate existing facilities.</p> <p>d) NARA Park Improvements - NARA's multi-purpose room is almost completed. Recreation is using this room for events and for concerts. There is also a small snack bar equipped with an ice cream freezer, an upright refrigerator and shelving to place various snacks for sale. A popcorn machine can be used.</p> <p>e) School Street - Recreation hopes to receive notice regarding a multi-year lease soon as the one year lease expires December 2009.</p> <p>f) Open Space and Recreation Plan - No updates</p> <p>g) Playground Update – No updates</p> <p>NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION</p>
<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p>Robbins Mill – Mr. Schlegel has attempted to contact Mr. Ferra on multiple occasions and will continue to do so until he is able to speak with him. Ms. Fochtman reiterated the residents main concern is the increase of traffic throughout their neighborhood. Ms. Fochtman commented the need for recreational land is an important factor and it was the opinion of the Commission to proceed with the recreational use of this land as it was written into the permit. Mr. Roland Bartl informed others as well. If the residents do not want the facilities as specified (i.e. soccer and basketball) changes will need to be discussed with the developer. However, the playground is still a requirement of the developer and should remain as a requirement. Any additional funding costs, to meet the approved changes, such as a tennis court will need to be funded by the neighborhood residents themselves, after all approvals. However this land and the playground equipment on it remains property of the Town of Acton.</p> <p>Mr. Schlegel received an inquiry to possibly fill an "Associate" member position of the Commission. Both Ms. Fochtman and Mr. Schlegel have contacted her to extend an invitation.</p>
<p>MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:</p>	<p>8:50 PM</p>