



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

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ACTON
ROOM 126
ACTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2007

7:00 PM
Called to order: 7:15 PM

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

Agenda topics

CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported that the Lifeguard Director has a concern with language barriers at NARA Park, making it difficult to enforce rules and regulations. There have been issues reported that a large group of non-English speaking patrons are going to NARA Park, entering the beach area from opposite end of Park, not paying or presenting a beach membership, and lifeguards are having a difficult time enforcing the rules because they are unable to understand English. The Lifeguard Director has inquired if signage in other language (request Spanish) could be posted with rules and regulations.
CONCLUSION	Ms. Jarsky inquired if other languages should also be posted in addition to Spanish/Portuguese. Mr. Schlegel felt that the guests obviously knew what they were doing by avoiding proper entry and that the lifeguards should contact the Acton Police Department to assist with these situations.

CONSENT AGENDA

	The Minutes of June 12, 2007 were approved as written: 3-0
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DOG LEASH MODIFICATION RECOMMENDATION

DISCUSSION	After lengthy discussion and review of the current dog policy at NARA Park, some highlighted issues that were discussed were: Ms. Fochtman reported that dogs that are not leashed are also not being properly watched or picked-up after as they are left unattended and run all over the Park. Ms. Fochtman has also been receiving good feedback on the new policy. Because there is not enforcement plan in place, Mr. Schlegel said that people are going to run their dogs when there is no employee present. Mr. Benson would like to have NARA remain a people park, as there are many other parks in town where a dog doesn't have to be leashed. Ms. Jarsky agreed with leaving the policy in place as there is a nearby conservation area near NARA where dogs can run.
CONCLUSION	The Recreation Commission would like to continue the dog policy at NARA Park.

NEW TENT PATIO RENTAL FACILITY

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman sought support of the Recreation Commissions for a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for rental fees for the new patio/tent facility area at NARA Park. The tent is a 20x30 with a concrete slab.
CONCLUSION	The Recreation Commission would like to recommend to the Board of Selectmen suggested fees for the new NARA Picnic Area: Acton Resident: up to 4 hours \$75, full day \$150 and Non-Resident: up to 4 hours \$125, full day \$250

PLAYGROUND PLANNING

DISCUSSION	Ms. Jarsky has been researching playgrounds. She discovered that fully accessible playgrounds are two-three times more money then the normal playground. Ms. Fochtman reported there is no money currently in the budget for playground replacement and will be seeking CPC funding. Ms. Fochtman
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would like to see Goward Playground addressed first.

CONCLUSION Ms. Jarsky and Ms. Fochtman will meet with Nancy White of O'Brien & Sons to go over all playgrounds. Ms. Jarsky will research funding through alternative means.

NARA YOUTH UPDATE

DISCUSSION Ms. Fochtman reported that the program is doing well and numbers have been good, and she has been receiving positive parental feedback.

RECREATION EVENTS

DISCUSSION

- a) Beach Party Blast, Thurs., Aug. 16
- b) Vento Chiaro, Thurs, Aug. 30
- c) Friday Night Movies, Sept. 7, 14, 21
- d) Acton Day, Sat., Sept. 15
- e) Events Wrap Up: Skate Park, July 4, Liberty Big Band

CONCLUSION The Recreation Department reported that concerts have been receiving great response and positive feedback. The T-Bone Family Fun night was enjoyed by many. The attendance has been good at the concerts this season.

REPORTS

DISCUSSION

- a) **Elm Street:** Ms. Fochtman reported that the Planning Board approved the permit which will allow new light poles to exceed current height restriction. The Town is doing the trench work to help lower the cost.
- b) **Morrison Farm Master Plan:** No report
- c) **CPC:** Mr. Benson reported that at their last meeting, the CPC had a wonderful presentation by a man who heads up the CPC Commission. There are now 127 communities that have joined CPC. The Recreation Commission has an opening for a commissioner to represent Recreation, however, at the current time there is not much interest due to prior commitments.
- d) **School Street:** Ms. Fochtman reported there is no progress update on the School Street contract at this time.
- e) **TJ O'Grady Skate Park:** Ms. Fochtman reported there have been a few items added over the past few months. This report item will be taken off future agendas.
- f) **Open Space and Recreation:** Selectmen Peter Ashton attended this portion of the meeting as he is working on the new Open Space and Recreation Plan with his wife Mary Ann. Mr. Ashton reported that the Recreation piece needs to be updated. He reported that they would like to send out a survey to Acton residents. He is seeking the Recreation Commission's objective and goals they would like to be seen, and has the old plan been met? Ms. Fochtman will send the current goals and objectives to the Commission for feedback. An updated survey to the leagues, like the one completed for Morrison Farm Plan will be resent to leagues. Mr. Schlegel reported that when a survey was done by previously there were open ended questions, and it would be better if questions were prioritized in a new survey. Ms. Jarsky will assist with the survey.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION none

The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.