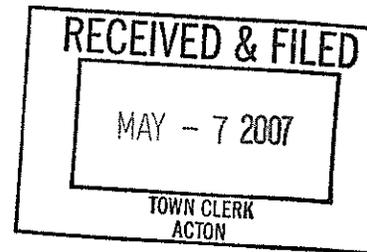




Recreation Commission Minutes  
April 3, 2007  
Acton Town Hall  
Room 126



Recreation Commission members Mr. Ron Schlegel, Ms. Alison Gallagher (arrived at 7:22 PM), Mr. Jon Benson and Ms. Karen Jarsky and Mr. Frank Calore were present. Also present were Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director and Ms. Maura Haberman, Event Coordinator/Administrative Assistant. Mr. Matthew Lundberg was not present.

Mr. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**I. CITIZENS CONCERNS**

Ms. Fochtman reported that she received a call from a concerned citizen regarding children running into the road while chasing soccer balls at the Concord Road field. Mr. Schlegel reported that the Concord Road field is not Recreation property and belongs to the Cemetery. Ms. Fochtman suggested this is more of a training issue. Ms. Jarsky inquired if a fence put in place would stop kids from running into the street. Mr. Calore mentioned that there is temporary fencing at the high school which is used and thought a fence similar to this would be a good option. Ms. Haberman reported that there was a citizen complaint made via email to the Recreation Department regarding graffiti at the T.J. O'Grady Skate Park, which has since been removed.

**II. NEW ASSOCIATE RECREATION COMMISSIONER**

Mr. Schlegel welcomed new Recreation Commission Associate Frank Calore. Mr. Calore has been teaching at Acton Boxborough Regional High School for 37 years and has coached track, cross country, Little League, Youth Hockey and was employed by the Town of Westford Recreation Department as a Summer Recreation Director.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes for March 6, 2007 were approved as written.

**IV. DOG ISSUE FOLLOW-UP**

Ms. Fochtman reported that the Board of Selectmen have implemented a temporary mandatory leash policy at NARA Park through October 1, 2007. New signage will be posted at NARA Park shortly. Drafts signs were shown by Ms. Fochtman for the Recreation Commission's input.

**IV. WEATHER PROTECTION**

Ms. Fochtman reported that Mr. Tom Tidman, Ms. Haberman, Mr. Shawn O'Malley and herself met recently with a Mr. Todd Cunningham, Doyle Sailmakers of Marblehead at NARA Park to see how we can better protect the children at NARA Park during rainy weather in the summer and also about NARA Amphitheatre draping. Mr. Cunningham is able to customize weather draping for the bathhouse and is working on putting a quote together based on bathhouse dimensions, materials cost and installation. The current makeshift tarps are ineffective for weather protection.

**V. WELLNESS UNIVERSITY**

Ms. Fochtman reported the Recreation Department in collaboration with the Board of Health, COA, and Acton Nursing Services, has put together "Wellness University," a series of educational lectures targeted to residents over 50. Wellness University has been funded with

grants from CHNA 15 and Emerson Hospital. The Recreation Department will emphasize sun protection with a table offering educational literature. Mr. Calore and Ms. Jarsky offered their assistance at the April 28<sup>th</sup> event.

#### **VI. GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Ms. Fochtman updated the Commission on the status of two grant applications.

1. Massachusetts Cultural Counsel (MCC): A grant application was submitted for lights and sound at NARA Park. This would be a matching grant with a fund request for \$14,000. Raising \$14,000 to match the grant is being worked on.
2. Shade Structures: A grant was submitted and backed by a local dermatologist for a funding request of \$8,000 to help obtain shade structures at NARA Park Beach.

#### **VII. GOLF TOURNAMENT PLANNING**

Ms. Haberman reported that she and Ms. Fochtman recently met with Quail Ridge representatives to discuss the upcoming golf tournament to benefit the Elm Street Light Replacement Project. There were a variety of items reviewed with Quail Ridge, i.e. tents, tables, chairs, Mulligan's, scoring, silent auctions, and more. Many volunteers will be needed to assist with the event. Ms. Gallagher offered her help at the event. The Recreation Department is seeking an MC for the event and more volunteers. Email correspondence has been sent to Elm Street users seeking their support for this event. Ms. Gallagher recommended contacting the ABRHS Golf Team for their help. There are currently 50+ participants signed up with a maximum limit of 100.

#### **VI. REPORTS:**

**NARA SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM:** Ms. Fochtman reported that registrations are currently being received and are on target for Recreation income projections.

**NARA PARK BEACH:** Ms. Fochtman reported a renewal form had been mailed out to last year's beach members and many are coming in. Lifeguard positions are not completely filled to-date for the '07 summer season and will be advertised.

**TJ O'GRADY SKATE PARK:** Ms. Fochtman reported there has been a resolution for recognizing major contributors to the Skate Park. Ms. Senneth Barrier has arranged for two granite benches which will be inscribed with contributor's names. Currently in the works, the Department is seeking a water fountain and concrete slab for the kiosk area and is planning a one-year anniversary celebration event. Mr. Jon Kerr, director of Danny's Place, will be helping out with the event.

**MORRISON FARM:** Ms. Gallagher reported that Morrison Farm has great things happening, and, has potential to generate its own income. Parking continues to pose a problem for recreation fields.

**CPC:** Mr. Benson reported that the CPC met briefly once since March. There are 12 proposals that will get voted on at Town Meeting.

**ELM STREET:** Ms. Fochtman reported that the bid opening is next Tuesday, April 10 at 2pm. There were 12 bid packages given out.

**SCHOOL STREET:** Ms. Fochtman reported there is no negotiation update at this time, but believes there is one in the works.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Fochtman would like to have the Recreation Volunteer of the Year be presented at the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at NARA Park. For the upcoming meeting, nominations are being sought.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.