Town of Acton
Recreation Commission

MINUTES
DATE: JUNE 2, 2009

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

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were 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: Ms. Cheryl Getsick

AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM

Citizens Concerns:

DISCUSSION	Ms. Frances Anderton informed Ms. Fochtman there was a confrontation between skaters and people parking for the fields at the skate park. Ms. Anderton is concerned about the safety of the skaters and possibly getting themselves into an undesirable situation. Additionally, Detective Cowan has requested signage for the skate park parking while Officer Silver has made the suggestion of possible on-site supervision by the Town of Acton. Ms. Fochtman notes there are issues of liability of supervision. The condition of the park has been deteriorating lately. Another officer observed damage as it appears kids drove their car into the fencing.

CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	April 15, 2009 minutes
CONCLUSIONS	April 15, 2009 minutes were accepted

TOPIC: 2009 NARA YOUTH, NARA BEACH

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman presented a handout which contains the current enrollment figures for both NARA Beach and NARA Youth/Mighty Mini Programs. Ideally each of the NARA Youth programs has between 60 – 80 enrollments. There has been additional advertising throughout the past month to promote the NARA Youth Program.
CONCLUSIONS	Incoming registrations continue to arrive for each weekly session.

TOPIC: LIONS CLUB FAIR

DISCUSSION	The Lions Club will begin setting their equipment on Sunday while the inspections are scheduled to begin on the following Monday. There will be a specific path which trucks and trailers will proceed in order to maintain the irrigation equipment from becoming damaged while on the fields. The irrigation has not yet been turned on for the season. The Lions Club will open the Fair on Wednesday, 6:00pm – 10:00pm. Mr. Calore stated this event would be a wonderful opportunity for the Junior High School children to attend. Ms. Fochtman noted an all day music festival is scheduled to occur on Saturday from 12:00 – 9:00pm. The music festival will run in conjunction with the Fair. On Sunday, the Lions Club will be conducting a bicycling event as a fundraiser. There will be a few blue's bands entertaining as well. Next year, AASL may possibly conduct a tournament during the Fair. Mr. Calore asked about the location of the fair trailers. Ms. Fochtman commented the trailers will be placed in the back location designated as the sand pits.
CONCLUSIONS	Recreation and Danny's Place will sell food and snacks. Additional vendors will be Savory Lane in conjunction with the Lions Club; Sit-N-Bull will also participate as a vendor. The Friday evening concert is being subsidized by Stop & Shop courtesy of Mr. Steve Rubner. Ms. Jarsky will also advertise to Acton Family Network. Ms. Fochtman met with Danny's Juice. Posters have been placed throughout town. A drum kit has been donated for the seventeen (17) bands to utilize by a local Drum Company on Ledge Rock Way.

TOPIC: STAFF UPDATES

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported we are a month out from staffing for the NARA Youth and Mighty Mini Program. Mr. Calore asked about the enrollment numbers and how the enrollment compares with years past? Ms. Fochtman noted the projected enrollment ranges from 60 – 80 per session. Ms. Jarsky asked if Recreation tracks how people obtain information regarding NARA Youth (i.e. newspaper, on-line, word of mouth, etc...) Ms. Fochtman noted we currently track if registrants are "returnee's".
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Fochtman noted next year's registration form will collect this information. Ms. Jarsky proposed offering a small reduced rate for "returnee's".

TOPIC: OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman informed members there is an open space committee meeting which meets every three weeks or so. The committee discusses possible open space purchases. Ms. Fochtman will attend next week's meeting. Ms. Fochtman requested a review of discussions which occurred

during 2007 regarding goals and objectives of the Recreation Plan during the time period 2008 – 2013. Ms. Fochtman provided a handout with highlights noting what was previously agreed upon for goals and objectives. Noted items A-B were new goals while the rest had been continued within the previously accepted five (5) year plan. Mr. Calore asked if there are any plans to address the land on Arlington Street between Charter Road and Newtown Road. Ms. Fochtman stated the only thing she had knowledge of is that area contains a lot of wetlands.

CONCLUSIONS

Ms. Fochtman stated she would speak to Mr. Tom Tidman about the area of land on Arlington street and Charter Road.

Ms. Fochtman requested assistance revising the plan along with performing some research on the project. Ms. Bodnar volunteered.

TOPIC: DOG DAY JUBILEE; T.J. O'GRADY SKATE PARK EVENTS

DISCUSSION

Ms. Fochtman reported the Dog day Jubilee event went very well despite an unfortunate dog bite. The dog was on a "flexi" leash. Protocol requires quarantine of the dog for ten (10) days.

Ms. Fochtman relayed there were some interesting bands which played at the T.J. O'Grady Skate Park Concert. One of the bands traveled from the Bronx; this band had a fabulous singer. Mr. Jon Kerr took are of all the sound equipment and tent with the use of his truck. Ms. Fochtman informed the members there may be some controversy regarding the posted signs however hopefully the signs will not be vandalized.

CONCLUSIONS

Ms. Fochtman discussed possibly placing restrictions on "flexi" leashes for next year's event. Mr. Calore also commented limiting the number of dogs per handler. Ms. Bodnar agreed.

The new signs at T.J. O'Grady's read, "Skate park Parking Only – Violators Will Be Towed"

TOPIC: REPORTS

DISCUSSION

A) Elm Street Update – A drainage improvement project to the softball field was completed. Ms. Fochtman has not heard anything more to date about the project. Lincoln Landscape was contracted to perform this work. Fifty (50) yards of infield mix to crown the infield was not enough to change the water flow. Therefore, crushed stone was placed under the benches and fences as well as along the bulkhead used to store the equipment. AASL paid for this restoration.

b) Morrison Farm Update – The orchard is new and upcoming.

c) CPC – Nothing to report

d) NARA Improvements – The changing room at the amphitheater is complete. The freezers will be stocked with ice cream. The building exterior will be stained. Recreation will target the sale of ice cream for the Fourth of July event. Countertop space and electricity will be available to offer items such as nachos, popcorn, etc....

e) School Street – Ms. Fochtman received a letter from Mr. Dave Scheuer, the Field Manager for the soccer league. Mr. Scheuer is frustrated at the condition of School Street and Concord road fields. There are many worn areas; especially at School Street. The School Street field is also used by lacrosse. Due to a one year lease, Recreation is limited on what improvements can be done. Currently there is research being performed on an irrigation source but that also has its limitations. Ms. Fochtman reported there are more and more demands for lacrosse fields. Due to the lack of funding, we do not have funds available to perform updates on these fields. Ms. Fochtman spoke with the Water District regarding a "Pilot Project" possibly have the Water District place compost and seed.

f) Open Space and Recreation Plan – Previously discussed

g) Playground Update – There was a citizen who left a message regarding the Goward Playground. There is a tube which contained a metal bar which was used for the children to grab onto prior to sliding. Her son hit his head on the bar. The bar has been removed.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

Nothing to report

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME: 8:50 PM