RECEIVED
OCT 12 2010
TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Acton Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Room 126
Acton Town Hall
September 7, 2010

Call to Order

Ms. Karen Jarsky, Co-Chair, called meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following attendees were present: Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Karen Jarsky, Co-Chair, Ms. Kim Bodnar, Co-Chair, Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Recreation Part-Time Secretary, Selectman Pamela Harting-Barrat, Citizens: Ms. Betsy Mercier, Ms. Bettina Norton, Ms. Jana Cataldo, Ms. Bridget Mapz, Ms. Maya Spies and Mr. Alfred Schattsneider.

Consent Agenda

MOTION to accept August 2010 minutes as amended, passed 3-0.

Citizens Concerns

Ms. Fochtman informed the Commissioners how concert funding is obtained in order to provide free concerts at NARA Park. The fall is often when performers are secured for the upcoming year. Ms. Fochtman explained how Recreation pays for these concerts via donations from businesses secured in revolving accounts. Monies generated by rentals and fees are collected into the revolving accounts to handle expenses. The performances at NARA offer a wonderful mix of genres. Selectman Harting-Barrat suggested the need for more publicity of the classical concerts. Ms. Norton requested information about sponsors donations, fundraising, how salaries are paid and where the monies generated by rental facilities are distributed. A request was made by Ms. Norton asking the Town of Acton to address the decibal level of noise from the concerts. Ms. Jarsky inquired about guidelines and precedent set by prior concerts. Ms. Fochtman noted there are no restrictions at this time.

Action Items

Ms. Fochtman will locate the Acoustical Engineering Study that was provided by the Norton family. Ms. Fochtman will speak with Ms. Norton about contacting the Conductor of the Lexington Orchestra while Ms. Norton offered to advise about fundraising and scheduling of classical concerts at NARA Park.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Ms. Fochtman met with Conservation Commission liaison Mr. Froburg. He provided a document which needs updating and contains future planning of open space and recreation inventory the town maintains. This document informs readers what has been accomplished over the years and what is planned to be addressed in the upcoming years. It inventories passive space, active space and projected space. This plan must be readdressed every 5 years. The last plan expired in 2007. One of the motivators is eligibility for state grants; the Town of Acton has to have an approved open space and recreation plan. One of the important things Recreation needs to do is invite the Town of Acton athletic leagues to provide input. Ms. Bodnar asked if a five (5) year plan is necessary since CPA funds are not available. CPA monies currently can only be accessed for land that is purchased with CPA funds but that may change with CPA bylaw changes proposed in SB90. At this time monies can not be used for renovating existing facilities, however organizations can gift things to the town. CPC monies are allocated for multiple purposes; Recreation is one of those purposes.

Action Item

Ms. Bodnar and Citizen Ms. Betsy Mercier will update the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Ms. Jarsky provided Commissioners a copy of the Town of Sudbury's plan. Ms. Fochtman will send a letter to the league directors and Recreation Commissioners. The plan will be reviewed and addressed with current information for review next month.

Preparation for BOS Oversight Meeting

The date for the meeting has yet to be set however Ms. Bodnar and Ms. Jarsky will attend.

Goward Playground Volunteer Task Planning

Ms. Fochtman reported there are two playground components which were purchased however one of these components did not correctly fit onto the current equipment Recreation is awaiting the correct replacement. A

walk-through was performed with Mr. Shawn O'Malley detailing the replacement of timbers. There are a lot of updates which could be accomplished with volunteers. The most needy repairs are the stand alone structures which need sanding and repainting

Action Item

Ms. Fochtman will contact Haartz regarding possible donations of roofing materials for the playground structures. Recreation would like to contact and create a citizens group regarding tasks which can be completed by volunteers. Citizen Ms. Jana Cataldo informed the Commissioners of her interest in raising funds for a new playground citizens group. Recreation will work along with Ms. Cataldo in developing a plan and possibly apply for a grant as well. Ms. Fochtman noted there are funding mechanisms within the Town of Acton as well, keeping in mind there are ADA compliance issues. Ms. Fochtman will send out an email informing potential volunteers of this task force. Recreation's goal is to have everything put together for the spring.

Reports

Elm Street

Nothing new to report.

Morrison Farm Update

Citizen Ms. Spies' letter was provided to the Commissioners. Ms. Spies shared her concerns regarding maintaining the fields and conservation. She expressed her concern about the lack of notification regarding the proposals of Morrison to the residents. She would like to have a list compiled of the various proposals followed by the residents review and decision as to how the property should be maintained or converted. She says there are practical reasons not to build a playing field there not to mention the wildlife that lives there.

Ms. Fochtman noted the Selectman reviewed a list of tasks which are to be performed at Morrison however there is a need to readdress further at the next meeting. Ms. Fochtman noted Recreation does not have direct input into the Selectman's decisions.

CPC

Nothing new to report.

School Street

Nothing new to report.

Playground Update

Ms. Fochtman was approached by the Planning Department regarding the playground located at Robbins Mill and Canterbury Hill Road. Initially, the development of the playground has been delayed however there are efforts currently in place to develop the playground and recreational land.

Action Item

Ms. Fochtman wrote a report to the Planning Board noting certain criteria must be in place before the playground and recreational land will be accepted by the Town of Acton as complete and ready for use.

Open Space & Recreation Plan

Noted above.

Nara Picnic Pavilion

Nothing new to report.

Recreation Operations – Peak Software

Ms. Fochtman will be meeting with the Finance Department as they have been providing a lot of support. Ms. Getsick will take on a bigger role as she will be working more closely with Finance.

New Business

Nothing to report