



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

MINUTES

DATE: MARCH 13, 2013

6:45 PM

ROOM 121, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair, Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Vice-Chair (delayed arrival), Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner, Mr. Steve Leo, Commissioner (delayed arrival), Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Mr. William Mullen, Citizen, Ms. Valerie Griffin, Westford citizen, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Natural Resources, Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary.
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AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 6:45 PM

Citizen's Concerns: Robbins Brook Trust Condominium Trust letter re: Trudeau Homes, International. Ms. Fochtman has determined the Recreation Department has no involvement in this property. A related zoning article will be discussed at the upcoming Acton Town meeting. There is no action to be taken by the Recreation Department on this matter.

CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	February 2013 minutes
ACTION ITEM	February 2013 minutes were accepted as amended, 3-0

TOPIC: Action Item Review

DISCUSSION	Nothing reviewed.
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TOPIC: MORRISON FARM UPDATE

DISCUSSION	Mr. Mullin informed the Commissioners that the CPC voted in favor of the Morrison plan with some adjustments, however all is moving forward. The Morrison Plan requires a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting. The theme is to remain positive in messages and to preserve Open Space and Recreation opportunities. Currently working with Green Advisory Board to improve the "green" aspect. Despite objections the Morrison Barn simply is that the building is not safe to remain as is; it will eventually deteriorate. It will require funding to repair. The replacement of the building and its location remain in question. 2.8 Million dollars bonded (200K per year) is required.
ACTION ITEM	Parents of school age children needed to attend Town Meeting and vote in support.

TOPIC: THERAPEUTIC ADAPTIVE PROGRAMS

DISCUSSION	Val Griffin is interested in offering programs and discussed her interest in Family programming and working with adults with disabilities. She is available to offer adaptation classes during the evening or weekends.
ACTION ITEM	Ms. Griffin and Ms. Fochtman will meet to discuss some ideas on future classes.

TOPIC: COMMISSIONERS TERM EXPIRATIONS

DISCUSSION	Commissioner Karen Jarsky's term ends within the next few months.
ACTION ITEM	Ms. Fochtman will inform each Commissioner when each of their individual terms expire.

TOPIC: RECREATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

DISCUSSION	Ms. Cathy Fochtman nominated Mr. John Chalmers (MCI Concord) for his consistent efforts throughout all of Recreation's events and his donation of time and materials along with horse drawn hayrides, etc... during Winter Carnival, Monster Bash Event as well as throughout the years. Commissioner Jarsky would like to nominate "The Friends of the Playground".
ACTION ITEM	The Commissioners feel "The Friends of the Playground" recognition is needed for this year and possibly nominate Mr. Chalmers for next year. Commissioner McKeever-Matz suggested nominating both for different citations. We will discuss further next meeting.

TOPIC: GOWARD PLAYGROUND

DISCUSSION	The Natural Resources crew has begun taking down the playground. Mr. Jay Redmond will be following the site plan from the Engineering department, raising / lowering and refining how the slope will be so the walkways will be in accordance with ADA codes. Ms. Fochtman will touch base with Mr. Redmond and will finalize the purchases with the vendors. The installation bid document will be available soon. Ms. Jana Cataldo is to follow up with the installation of the bricks.
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ACTION ITEM	Ms. Fochtman will inquire as to updating the banner with the recent donors.
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TOPIC: MORRISON FARM (CONTINUED)

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman provided a handout. The Commissioners are still working on suggestions for which playground pieces that would be appropriate. Ms. Fochtman requested clarification on pricing on the spreadsheet. Commissioner Mercier suggested it would be better to have support come from the individuals rather than organization.
ACTION ITEM	The Commissioners agreed to develop a letter in support of all CPC Recreation Projects and encouraging attendance at Town Meeting, which will be forwarded to the Beacon upon approval. Cheryl will post meeting when date is set.

TOPIC: WINTER CARNIVAL

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman thanked everyone who helped with Winter Carnival. It was a successful day and well attended.

REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<p>a) Miracle Field – Meeting with the Richardts for additional equipment (Bleachers/SunShade). 2nd annual Father’s Day FunFest!</p> <p>b) NARA Parking Lot Expansion – nothing to report</p> <p>c) CPC – A meeting this week to finalize recommended funding for Morrison, Elm Street playground and tennis court and Comfort Station design. They did not recommend the full amount for the Picnic Pavilion but did recommend \$100K.</p> <p>d) School Street – nothing to report</p> <p>e) Playground Update – nothing to report</p> <p>f) Open Space & Recreation Plan – Tom Tidman is close to having the Open Space & Rec Plan finalized.</p> <p>g) NARA Park Pavilion Update – The design team is meeting with the architect which was hired to attend a Design Review Board Meeting.</p> <p>h) Recreation Operations – AASL wants more time on Elm Street on Sundays. Court injunction from 1970’s does not allow weekend organized play at Elm Street, so they have asked neighbors to consider their request, while addressing the neighbor’s concerns. Neighbors’ concerns are noise, language, loitering, etc.... A plan for signage and AASL captains to be informed about new rules and have a procedure for reporting infractions will be put in place. The police department is in support of signage.</p>
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION – NOTHING TO REPORT

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	8:55PM
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**Supporting and referenced documentation relating to these minutes are available on the Docushare site; <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-1985>*