



TOWN OF ACTON
RECREATION COMMISSION

R E C E I V E D
SEP 10 2012

MINUTES – APRIL 10, 2012

6:45 PM

TOWN CLERK, ACTON
ACTON TOWN HALL
ROOM 121

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner, Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Vice-Chair, Mr. Steve Leo, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Recreation Secretary, Ms. Bettina Abe, Natural Resources Secretary, Ms. Melissa Settipani, Natural Resources, Mr. John Sonner, Board of Selectman Liaison, Citizens: Ms. Jana Cataldo, Mr. Joe Will and Mr. Michael Kebadjian.
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AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 6:45 PM

TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERN

DISCUSSION	NARA Pond Fishing: Ms. Abe addressed Mr. Kebadjian's concern about overfishing at NARA Pond. It was determined performing a study for possible overfishing would be difficult and may not prove effective. Rather, Ms. Abe would address this possible issue by enforcement of the fishing rules and regulations, which are outlined when a fishing permit is issued. Additionally, a flyer will be created using the information from MASS Fish & Wildlife and adapted to NARA Pond specifically. A fishing license must be obtained by anyone fifteen (15) years or older. Ms. Fochtman relayed training will be provided to the NARA staff however she does not expect them to carry out the enforcement. Signs were requested to be posted along the pond however it was agreed the staff would prefer to monitor via education. Skate Park: Ms. Fochtman received a citizen concern about the T.J. O'Grady skate park conditions. Additionally, the citizen's children are harassed when walking by the park.
ACTION ITEM	Educational measures will be tried and assessed. If visitors do not wish to follow the regulations, the local police department will be contacted. Citizens should report any harassment issue to the Acton Police. Ms. Fochtman will update the caller on the maintenance of the T.J. O'Grady skate park.

TOPIC: CONSENT OF MINUTES

DISCUSSION	A motion to accept the February 2012 minutes as amended was approved 4:0.
ACTION ITEM	The minutes will be updated onto the Town of Acton website.

TOPIC: TOWN MEETING

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported good news for Recreation. The requested capital item for \$150K towards the Goward Playground will be available as of July 1, 2012. There is a potential issue regarding the septic system and possible excavation work, which may need to be performed. Mr. Leo inquired as to whether the entire playground
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	<p>needs to be ADA accessible or if a portion of the playground needs only be developed as such. Ms. Fochtman states it needs to be accessible as per ADA requirements including the surface material. Mr. Sonner asked about the design for the playground as a single bid or if the design and development of the playground will be combined. Ms. Fochtman noted hiring a landscape architect costs approximately 10% of the bid cost. It is also possible that a playground designer could be utilized to suggest landscape elements. Ms. Jarsky inquired as to whether the current structures can be recycled in any manner. Ms. Fochtman noted the posts could be reused. Anything the Town of Acton does not choose to utilize is deemed "surplus" and the Board of Selectmen then needs to approve for auction or disposal. Ms. Cataldo stated a concern of raising enough money by the time CPA funds become available. Ms. Fochtman suggested waiting to see where the funding stands next April 2013. Mr. Leo suggested setting up a table at the Garden Club sale to sell bricks for the Friends of the Playground. The Town of Acton has set aside monies for the final skate bowl design at T.J. O'Grady's skate park. A few of the ramps also need reconditioning.</p>
ACTION ITEM	<p>Ms. Fochtman will follow up with Engineering and Municipal Properties regarding the septic and excavating concerns. Ms. Fochtman will contact the Garden Club members to inquire about donating towards the design of the playground. Ms. Fochtman will follow up with Engineering regarding site planning and possible reuse of the current Goward playground structures.</p>

TOPIC: MIRACLE LEAGUE FIELD

DISCUSSION	<p>The Miracle League Field was approved for construction at Town Meeting and will be moving forward. The design is coming to a close and is approximately 95% complete. The design to be finalized by month's end. A representative from the national organization will be arriving to speak to the representatives. Timeframe on the opening will hopefully be September 2012. Local contractors will be donating trees for the landscaping. The Town of Acton Highway Department has been working on the parking lot for the past two months.</p>
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TOPIC: SENIOR CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

DISCUSSION	<p>Ms. Matz reported the Town of Acton citizens would most likely approve a community center rather than a senior center. Concerns regarding tax increases were raised. The concern of too many infrastructure issues with the current building was raised.</p>
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TOPIC: CPC

DISCUSSION	<p>Ms. Mercier reports the committee has not met since February 2012. The next step is to present award letters and updating the Committee Plan.</p>
ACTION ITEM	<p>The CPC requires a Recreation Commissioner to be a representative.</p>

Reports

School Street: Nothing to report

NARA Playground: A quote was received for a shade structure. A particular style will be selected before fundraising.

Playgrounds: Ms. Fochtman will pursue commission concerns regarding "Playground parking Only" signs for Gardner and having lanes painted.

Open Space & Rec Plan: Ms. Fochtman passed along an update regarding what the intent of Recreational development will be over the next five (5) years. Ms. Jarsky will provide her thoughts on the specific goals.

Picnic Pavilion: The Recreation Department is developing an idea of an outdoor fire pit

Recreation Operations: The Spring and Summer Programs/Classes have been sent out and classes are running. There is an ad placed for a Waterfront Director for the 2012 season. Ms. Jarsky will meet with Mr. Tom Tidman regarding the blending of Recreational and Conservation with printed materials and website update.

New Business: Mr. Joe Will volunteered to possibly be the liaison for the Conservation and Recreational Department. Ms. Jarsky was nominated as the Liaison to the Conservation Committee. Mr. Sonner inquired as to whose terms would be expiring within the upcoming months.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45pm

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