



**Town of Acton  
Recreation Commission**

**R E C E I V E D**  
MAR 12 2013

**MINUTES**

**DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2012**

**6:45 PM**

**TOWN CLERK, ACTON  
ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL**

**ATTENDEES**

Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair, Ms. Bridget Matz, Vice-Chair, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner, Mr. Stephen Leo, Commissioner, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Natural Resources Facility Worker, Mr. John Sonner, Selectman. Not present was Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Recreation Secretary.

**AGENDA TOPICS**

Meeting called to order at: 6:45 PM

**CITIZENS CONCERN**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	An upset citizen called the Recreation Department reporting that a family brought a dog onto the Joseph Lalli Miracle Field. Moments later, another citizen called to report the same situation.
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	The Recreation Commissioners voted unanimously, 5-0, to have a "No Dogs Allowed on Field" sign posted at the park. The Recreation Department will create and post the new sign.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	November 2012 minutes
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	November 2012 minutes were accepted as amended, 5-0

**TOPIC: GOWARD PLAYGROUND**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Friends of the Playground have raised about \$38,000 so far for the renovation of Goward Playground. The Friends of the Playground are sending out one last flyer to all the elementary schools to help them reach their \$50,000 goal by the end of 2012. Currently there are not any fundraising events planned because they switched their focus to coming up with the final design of the playground. The estimated cost of the final construction of the playground with everything included is \$218,000. Weekly inspections are performed by Ms. Rier to ensure that the current conditions of the equipment remain safe for the users.
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**TOPIC: ICE HOUSE POND PLAYGROUND DESIGN**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The landscape architect that has been working with Mr. Bill Mullin came up with a very fancy and complex playground design for Ice House Pond which is a much different vision than was originally discussed. The original vision of this future playground was to have it very natural and to have it stay with the theme of the farm. Ms. Mercier brought up that the playground shouldn't be the main attraction, but rather an addition to the natural recreational area.
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	Mr. Sonner will touch base with Mr. Bill Mullin about the Recreation Commissioner's feedback.

**TOPIC: 2013 FEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Recreation Department collected data and put together a chart to compare our field and facility fees in comparison to other towns/cities in Massachusetts.
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	The Recreation Department will consider whether a fee adjustment is recommended, based on the level of maintenance the Town and the leagues provide.

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	a) Miracle Field – Ms. Fochtman nominated Mr. Tom Tidman for an award for the construction of the Joseph Lalli Miracle Field through the Massachusetts Recreation & Parks Association (MRPA). b) NARA Parking Lot Expansion – The Recreation Department is looking to put an ice rink here for the winter. c) CPC – TJ O'Grady Skatepark: The Recreation Department is putting together an RFP for engineered design plans with Town Counsel and is hoping to finalize the conceptual design of the park to include in the document. d) School Street – Ms. Rier received a phone call by the Acton Police Department reporting that someone vandalized the field by doing donuts with their vehicle on the fields. No suspects were reported. e) Playground Update – Acton Children's School donated their toddler playground equipment. The Recreation Department had it removed by Forte Landscaping Co. and has it stored in the barn on
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December 4, 2012

MINUTES – MEETING ADJOURNED 8:05pm

- Harris Street until we have the funding to install it at the Elm Street site.
- f) Open Space & Recreation Plan – Nothing to report
- g) NARA Park Pavilion Update - CPC application for additional funding was submitted. The construction of the Picnic Pavilion at NARA Park would become a major revenue source in the future.
- h) Recreation Operations Peak - Nothing to report

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**NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION – NOTHING TO REPORT**

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MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	8:05PM
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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>*