



Town of Acton

Recreation Commission

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

Minutes

DATE: August 1, 2017

ATTENDEES	Present were Mr. Stephen Trimble, Commissioner, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Barbara Willson, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, and Ms. Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Secretary.
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TOPIC: CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Nothing to Report.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	July 11, 2017 minutes
ACTION ITEM	July 11, 2017 minutes accepted as amended, 3:0.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM JULY 11, 2017 MINUTES

DISCUSSION	None to report.
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TOPIC: FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS

DISCUSSION	Ms. Maura Haberman, Recreation event & program coordinator, is working on a draft of the 2017 – 2018 Fall and Winter Program Booklet featuring a new color scheme and cover photo of 50 Audubon Hill where the department will soon relocate. Mr. Trimble asked whether programs carry over with the same offerings and Ms. Fochtman replied that some do, martial arts among others. Recreation works with partners who provide instructors and indoor space since the department does not have its own gym. Several examples of partnering were discussed. Recreation athletic fields are also used for partnering with organizations such as Skyhawks and Super Soccer Stars. Another cooperative effort is the coordination of bus trips with nearby towns including Littleton, Carlisle, Concord and Bedford. Upcoming bus trips were detailed. Ms. Fochtman presented the floor plan of 50 Audubon Hill showing areas where indoor programs are being planned for this fall and onward.
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TOPIC: PROJECT UPDATES

DISCUSSION	The junior basketball court project for Goward and Gardner Playgrounds is ready to be put out to bid. Ms. Fochtman described the accessible route to Gardner Playground now in place. The half-court at each location is being downsized to a junior court for use by children. Basketball facilities at the Robbins Mill Recreation Area and Jones Field were also discussed.
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TOPIC: CAPITAL REQUESTS

DISCUSSION	<p>Ms. Fochtman reported that this year, as requested by the Finance Committee, the Town finance cycle will begin sooner than in the past with the annual October "Meeting on the Hill" moved up to September. Capital projects will be presented by Town department heads and priorities ranked. Community Preservation Act funding is Recreation's primary source for capital projects. Following are proposed projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recreation Department van: The 2000 Ford Eco Van used for transporting passengers and supplies needs replacement. The department is looking at a Ford Transit Van with 12-passenger capacity at a cost of approximately \$30,000. Transporting NARA Summer campers on field trips with this vehicle, as opposed to renting a bus, would provide a significant savings. Mr. Trimble suggested a cost-benefit analysis.2. Jones Field renovation: Ms. Melissa Rier has organized a well-received campaign to help fund this project. The developer of the Martin Street housing project may also contribute.3. Dog Park: Ms. Fochtman is the staff person assigned to the newly-formed Dog Park Committee, a project currently under study.
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Rail Trails – Ms. Fochtman reported that paving will begin soon. Also, the area near the Nashoba Brook Trail has been paved. Mr. Will discussed the connection of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to Acton trails.b) NARA Sports Pavilion – Ms. Fochtman will be meeting with the Office of Michael Rosenfeld to get the final construction package out to bid. Design adjustments are being made to reduce costs. Some of the site work around the buildings will be done by volunteers.c) Morrison Farm – See h) Community Gardens, below.d) T.J. O'Grady Skate Park – Proposed signage to raise public awareness of fundraising, such as a self-supporting banner, was discussed. Mr. Trimble asked whether there had ever been any vandalism at the Skate Park. Ms. Fochtman replied that some graffiti and other minor damage had occurred in the past.e) Playgrounds – Insulet Corporation volunteers removed tree branches from properties abutting Goward Playground that were lying on the ground after trimming. The debris was placed in a dumpster provided by Axe Brothers. The volunteers also spread mulch at the NARA Playground.f) Community Preservation Committee ("CPC") – Nothing to report.g) Rules for Drones/Model Aircraft – Ms. Fochtman will be contacting the Town Manager for an opinion on a request from Alan Yost of the Volpe Center to use the School Street Field to test drones for feedback to the FAA about drone operator ability to visually track drones flying up to 300 feet.h) Community Gardens – Ms. Fochtman will be interviewed by "The Beacon" reporter, Isabel Rodriguez, for an article about the Community Gardens to run in a future edition.
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION: Ms. Fochtman reported that Ms. Mary Lou Repucci will be promoted to Recreation office manager retroactive to July 1, 2017.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.
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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>*