

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, November 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Human Services – Community Room
166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley
Commissioners Jennifer Norcross, Larry Theadore, Stephanie Hartell & Ben Kepple
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Director of Human Services Leanne Theodore
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina
Absent: Commissioner Jeff Moore

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

None.

III. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from October 2023 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the Regular Meeting, October 23, 2023 as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

Mr. Ward thanked everyone who was able to attend the Joe Cirello dedication ceremony.

a. Fall Program – Final Report

Mr. Ward gave the Recreation Commission a handout showing the program report numbers. There were 269 participants in the NFL Flag Football (outdoor) program, registrations are at 124 for the indoor flag program, and only 92 participants registered so far for the basketball program which is about half of the usual number. Mr. Ward commented that they were able to add a Junior NBA League program for 3rd to 8th grade. There was some discussion about the Como basketball program. Director Theodore suggested getting a head start next season for advertising Recreations basketball programs. She has a meeting with Director Haugen from the Como and First Selectwoman Chesebrough next week and she will share Recreations concerns. Director Theodore also noted that there was some confusion with the travel program and the

Recreation programs. Chairman Crowley stressed that the reason for Recreation is for every kid to play and have the opportunity to participate. Mr. Christina will be keeping basketball registrations open.

According to Mr. Ward, there were a total of 807 participants for fall and winter programs and some registrations are still open so that number will increase. He then highlighted some of the numbers for specific programs.

b. Winter Program Update

Chairman Crowley shared his concern with keeping the pickleball courts open during the winter. Mr. Ward commented that they leave two tennis courts open in winter as well. He will post a sign stating no shoveling the courts (it is best to let snow and ice melt on their own). Lights on the courts will not be available unless someone has a reservation starting December 1st. There was some further discussion about possibly locking the courts if there are poor conditions to deter people from trying to remove snow themselves.

c. Spellman Park Conceptual Master Plan

Mr. Ward shared with the Recreation Commission Kent + Frost Landscape Architecture's proposal for Spellman Park. The fee for this conceptual master plan is \$17,800. Mr. Ward will be going forward with this and he will include the Recreation Commissioners with the brainstorming process and ideas on what they would like to see in a master plan.

V. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

According to Mr. Ward, this account is on target. He will start spending lines down. Director Theodore asked the Recreation Commissioners to let her or Mr. Ward know if they have any suggestions involving any of the line items since they will be starting to put together next year's budget. Commissioner Norcross commented on the utilities line item. Between July and October 2023, half of the utilities budget has been used. There was some discussion about the utilities budget and it will be something that will be addressed going forward.

b. Special Activity -21100

The revenue in this account is \$63,616 with an expense of \$158,117 and a total net revenue over expenditure of -\$94,500. Mr. Ward commented that it is normal to be upside down this time of year.

c. Disc Golf Fund -21102

Mr. Ward did not include an update since there have been no changes. Commissioner Theodore asked what the overall price would be to add the remaining nine holes to which Mr. Christina responded that it would cost ~ \$6,000 plus the Department of Public Works time to do the work.

VI. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley commented that the boathouse project is still waiting for a \$500,000 grant from the State, otherwise, all plans are in place.

Chairman Crowley suggested incorporating the 3-acre area behind the sewer plant in the Borough in the master plan concept. It may be possible to put in a pavilion and a few picnic tables so people can enjoy the area.

VII. Commission Meeting Dates for 2024 (Action Required)

Mr. Ward asked for a motion to set the 2024 monthly meetings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the 2024 Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule as the fourth Monday of the month: January 22, February 26, March 25, April 22, May 20 (*3rd Monday due to holiday), June 24, September 23, October 28 & November 25, 2024. (Note: No meetings held in July, August or December 2024) to be held at the Stonington Human Services Community Room. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

VIII. Old Business

a. Update on New Courts for Town Dock Area

Mr. Ward provided the Recreation Commission with an updated layout. He will have it drafted up professionally. They will not clear the court in the winter, it will have a non-permeant hoop and the area will not be fenced. There was some further discussion in regard to the court. All agreed to have the plan drafted as Mr. Ward described.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:52 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hartell, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes: No meeting in December.

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman