

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024 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
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina

Absent: Commissioner Jeff Moore

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

II. Publics’ Opportunity to Address the Commission

None.

III. Secretary’s Report

a. Approval of minutes from November 2023 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Theadore to approve the Regular Meeting, November 27, 2023 as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator’s Report

a. Winter Program Update

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that there are 545 participants registered for Winter Programs. The pickleball program is running well. The high school league basketball program is starting this Thursday. There are four teams of eight players. They will be having a Field Hockey Winter Clinic with 20 participants. This is a 6-week program for 5th to 8th grade.

b. Back 9 Campaign – Disc Golf Course

Mr. Ward stated that they are starting to campaign for the Back 9 at the disc golf course. He will be meeting with Public Works to work on clearing the space. He asked the Recreation Commission if they have any suggestions for businesses that would be willing to sponsor. There was some discussion of possible businesses.

V. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

According to Mr. Ward, this account is on target. He has spent down the Program Expense line item (used 93%). He noted that they added to the Utilities line item for the next fiscal year budget. He further discussed the Professional Assoc. line item.

b. Special Activity -21100

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the total revenue ending December 31, 2023 was \$97,741, the expenses were \$212,539 with a total net loss of \$114,798. Registrations for Summer Camp begins February 1st so these numbers will improve.

c. Disc Golf Fund -21102

There were no changes or updates to this account.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the Finance Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hartell, all in favor, motion approved.

VI. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley stated that the Boathouse project did not get awarded the \$500,000 grant. They plan on hiring a project manager to get more accurate figures on the cost for the project. According to Chairman Crowley, they plan on starting with the boathouse in anticipation that the progress will get more interest in the project.

VII. Old Business

a. Update on new basketball courts for town dock area

Mr. Ward is continuing to look into the best location for the basketball court. They have decided to move it away from the playground area. He noted that First Selectwoman Chesebrough reached out to the WPA. Mr. Ward proposed three options on town property. The first option is in between the fish market and the parking lot; however, this can be a very wet area and they would need to move or replace a tree. He noted that part of the approval process for any of the proposed locations would be to reach out to the surrounding neighbors. The next step would be to draw up the plan and figure out the cost. He also intends on reaching out to the Borough Board of Warden & Burgesses to see if they will help contribute funding to the project.

b. Update Spellman Park Master Plan

Mr. Ward noted that there will be a meeting this Thursday for a discussion with school officials in regard to the Spellman Park Master Plan. From this meeting, they will take a conceptual plan to the public. Mr. Ward thinks that the public meeting would be mid to end of February.

Chairman Crowley commented that the entire town should be included in the master plan and not just Spellman Park. Mr. Ward feels this is a good starting point. There was some further discussion about the playground on Haleys Way in Old Mystic.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:40 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes: Next Scheduled Meeting is Monday, February 26, 2024 at 6:00pm at Stonington Human Services

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Michael Crowley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman