

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, March 25, 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, Jeff Moore, Stephanie Hartell & Ben Kepple
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina

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 February 2024 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Moore to approve the Regular Meeting, February 26, 2024 as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Spring / Summer Program Report

Mr. Ward included a list of all the offerings with the Recreation Commissioner's packets. He stated that the Summer Camp program is sold out. This was the first time that camp has sold out so early in the year. They may be able to accommodate some of the children on the wait list. Mr. Christina noted that there is a maximum of 150 campers per week. They could add more campers if they are able to get more counselors. There was some further discussion on staffing levels.

Flag Football was postponed due to weather this past Saturday. Mr. Ward is looking to add another boating safety course. They are currently enrolling in the Hoop Academy program. There was some discussion on the Trail Stewardship Club. According to Mr. Ward, the backpack flyers went out to all the schools last week and he stated that they will see numbers go up as a result. There are 696 participants so far registered for spring / summer program calendar.

V. Finance Reports

- a. General Fund -10173**
- b. Special Activity -21100**
- c. Disc Golf Fund -21102**

Mr. Ward stated that he did not have the finance reports available. He will include them with next month's packet.

VI. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley did not have anything further to report on the boathouse.

Chairman Crowley commented that he would like to look into getting a bench for Joe McKernan. He suggested that the Recreation Commission think about it and also think about a good location for one. There was some brainstorming by the Recreation Commission about where to place the bench. Mr. Ward will look into pricing.

VII. Old Business

a. Update on Basketball Courts for Town Dock Area

Mr. Ward gave the Recreation Commissioners some updated options. Option one is near where the lobster pot tree is set up. It would be a 50x35 paved half court. Mr. Ward plans on mapping the area out with flags and inviting the First Selectwoman, the Borough Warden & Burgesses and the Chamber out to the location. If Mr. Ward receives push back, he has another option, however, that option involves significant sitework. He found a basketball hoop that is good for shooting that is temporary and can be removed during winter months: cost approximately \$3,200. They will need to work out a place to store it. He estimates a cost of approximately \$5,000 for site plans, approximately \$50,000 for paving and sitework and another \$10,000 for painting lines, etc. Mr. Ward estimates \$70,000 for this project, however, he thinks it would come in under budget. He is willing to ask the Borough for help with the costs.

Mr. Ward noted that he informed the First Selectwoman of the idea of putting a gazebo and picnic tables on town property behind the sewer treatment plant.

The Recreation Commission approved Mr. Ward to move forward with option one as presented and discussed.

b. Update Spellman Park Master Plan

Mr. Ward will be meeting with Chad Frost next week and then they will set up a meeting with the public. He noted at the last meeting there was a lot of discussion about parking. There was some discussion about the wood chips at the Spellman Park playground.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:30 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes: Next Scheduled Meeting is Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6:00pm at Stonington Human Services

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Michael Crowley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman