

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, May 23, 2022 at 6:00pm
SPS District Office – Board Room
40 Field Street, Pawcatuck**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley & Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Jennifer Norcross, Larry Theadore, Stephanie Hartell & Jeff Moore
Alternate Ben Kepple
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina
Director of Human Services Leanne Theodore

Absent: none

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

none

III. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from March 2022 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to approve the Regular Meeting, March 28, 2022 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

Spring/Summer Program update

An update on public comments from the March meeting:

The group who presented regarding travel basketball has met with the Como, and talks about the program continue.

Director Ward spoke with the First Selectperson about issues regarding the proposals for the property known as the Circus Lot in Pawcatuck. Nothing is resolved yet, but the concerns have been heard. Leanne Theodore commented about grants the Economic Development Commission has applied for which relate to this property and clean-up work that has happened in the past. Although the town does not currently own the property, the Pawcatuck Fire Department is interested in helping to keep it clean.

Current programs: A great number of programs are offered for the summer, ranging from toddlers to senior citizens, including camps, trips, and many others. Flyers have been sent home with students. 956 people are currently registered for summer programs. Summer Camp is sold out for full-day, full-summer enrollments (100 children) and there is a waiting list. 25 more spots are available for weekly registration, and some weeks still have spots. Spring tennis is sold out, and there is a wait-list for beginners.

V. Finance Reports

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

Revenue is up 32% over 2019, which was the most successful recent year.

Disc Golf: account is on the plus side, but there is more work to be done/equipment to be purchased. Nine holes are currently complete.

Other accounts are on target.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to approve the Finance Reports as submitted.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

VI. Chairman's Report

Thanks to Jen Norcross for taking the minutes for March.

Dogs at Spellman Park: Chairman Crowley and Commissioner Norcross observed dogs at the softball field at a recent game. It was noted that there is plenty of signage reminding the public that dogs are not allowed in the area. Leanne Theadore commented that there are many signs, but all have different messages – they are looking into signs that would be consistent at town properties. The policy regarding dogs has been adopted by Recreation, Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Police Commissioners, and needs to be followed. Chairman Crowley expressed the idea of having the Dog Warden patrol the area. It was noted that sometimes fans from visiting teams bring dogs and so communication from leagues running events needs to be clear.

Boathouse Park meeting: A contract has been signed for cleanup of the area and is moving forward. Mystic Seaport will allow those using the park, to park cars in their lot. More updates to follow as progress is made.

VII. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report

The Ad-hoc Committee did not meet.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Tennis Courts has gone to bid and the deadline is Thursday at 2:00. Three companies attended the pre-bid meeting and it is hoped there will be at least that many bids. The meeting Thursday is at Town Hall.
- b. The flag pole has been installed and a flag has been ordered.
- c. The new swing for the disabled has been installed at Spellman Park. Admin services and public works worked together to get this done. ADA-approved matting has been installed underneath the swing. The commission will send Neil Solar a thank-you for his donation which led to the installation of the swing.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 7:09 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

Next meeting: 6:00 pm, June 27 at SPS District Office

Submitted by Jennifer Norcross, May 24, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Michael Crowley".

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman