

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, November 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM  
SPS District Office – Board Room  
40 Field Street, Pawcatuck**

Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Chairman C. Michael Crowley  
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Jennifer Norcross, Larry Theadore & Stephanie Hartell  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward  
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina  
Alternate Ben Kepple

**Absent:** Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak & Jeff Moore

**I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

**II. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission**

None.

**III. Secretary's Report**

**a. Approval of minutes from October 2022 Commission meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Theadore to approve the Regular Meeting, October 24, 2022 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

**IV. Recreation Administrator's Report**

**Disc Golf Presentation – Matt Cunningham**

Mr. Cunningham from Far Flung Enterprises, the disc golf course title sponsor, was presented a plaque, on behalf of the Recreation Commission, in recognition of his commitment. Mr. Cunningham took the opportunity to give the Recreation Commission a brief background on himself and his love for disc golf. He noted that there are private disc golf courses in the area but limited public courses. He recommended that the Town look into making sure they are covered for any liabilities. He further stated that he knows people that are willing to contribute their labor in order to complete the tee boxes. Another item he noted was that wood chips should be put down in areas to combat soil erosion due to the foot traffic. Mr. Cunningham mentioned that not much needs to be done to maintain the course but it should get some attention three to four times a year. He thanked the Recreation Commission for their time tonight to express his thoughts and for the plaque.

Mr. Ward then presented Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina with a plaque and noted he was a huge component in getting this disc golf course off the ground.

Mr. Ward spoke to Mr. Cunningham's issues. He recognized that they need to finish the tees that are in place and insurance coverage has been explored before the course was put in. He further stated that when they hold any events that require registration, there will be a waiver included. It was also suggested to make an electronic waiver available for players to sign.

Commissioner McKernan asked if there is any play at your own risk type signage? Chairman Crowley suggested that something should be posted since safety is their top priority. There was some further discussion on the type of material that can/should be put down on the course and the course maintenance. There was a suggestion to put in a lost and found box. Mr. Christina expressed his idea of erecting a memo box to post notices, post standings when they are running leagues and even post the course.

### **Winter Programming Update**

According to Mr. Ward, all programs with the exception of one, are going well. He informed the Recreation Commission that they had to cancel girls como/rec basketball due to the fact that there were only 18 participants registered across all the age groups. He is trying to put together a skills and drills league for the girls. Mr. Christina noted that, in 2019, there were 70 participants registered in the girls como/rec basketball program. They feel the low numbers are due to the fact that there is a travel basketball league running at the same time.

## **V. Finance Reports**

### **a. General Fund -10173**

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the general fund is all on target. The utilities are down a bit due to the construction at the tennis courts since the lights are not on during this time. He will use up this line item.

Under the Professional Assoc. line, Mr. Ward and Mr. Christina went to a state conference and did a lot of networking.

### **b. Special Activity -21100**

In the Special Activity fund, the revenue is \$66,744, which is up approximately 36% from last year. Mr. Ward noted that Recreation is still upside down due to how the fiscal year runs. Revenue over expenditure is negative \$43,866 and Recreation has a cash balance of \$124,271.

### **c. Disc Golf Fund -21102**

The Disc Golf fund has a revenue of \$20,304. There is a line item available for program revenue when those start up. The expenses are at \$13,707. The Labor Salaries line is for Public Works to do any clearing or maintenance. They spent \$4,123 under Labor Salaries and \$9,583 under Disc Golf Expenses which covered the tee pads, etc.

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to accept the Finance Reports as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.



**VI. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Crowley commented that there had previously been brief discussion about naming the pickle ball courts after Joe Ciriello. Chairman Crowley stated that Joe's wife would like the basketball courts to be named after Joe. Mr. Ward commented that there is a process for naming facilities. Commissioner Norcross will fill out and submit the form on Recreation's behalf.

Chairman Crowley mentioned that the naming of the boathouse will be coming before the Recreation Commission for approval.

**VII. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report**

No meeting.

**VIII. Old Business**

**a. Update: Tennis Court Construction**

According to Mr. Ward, this is on hold until spring, however, they will put in the lighting and walkways. This project will continue sometime in the spring depending on the temperature.

**b. Update: Moss Park Connector**

Mr. Ward stated that they are trying to arrange a meeting with the landowner. Once the easement is complete, they can begin to blaze the trail.

**IX. New Business**

Commissioner Norcross informed the Recreation Commission that today is Tom McCoy's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Commissioner Norcross mentioned that, at the Thanksgiving Day game, there were a lot of dogs brought to the game. Per Town Policy, dogs can not be on the fields or walk-ways. Dogs must be on leash and can be in the parking lots or on the trails. Chairman Crowley requested the Stonington Police Department be notified of the on-going violations of this policy. There was some discussion about the possibility of creating a dog park and some prospective locations within Spellman Park to put one.

Commissioner McKernan asked how the turf field is holding up since it is almost ten years old. Mr. Ward noted that the school takes care of this field. Chairman Crowley noted last year the turf field was looked at and it showed signs of minimal wear. Mr. Christina further commented that the turf field was in good shape this year.

There was some further discussion on the care of the baseball field and the condition of the practice field.

**X. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 7:04 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Notes: Next scheduled meeting is January 23, 2023 at District Offices (no meeting in Dec.)**

Respectfully Submitted,

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

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman