

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, October 23, 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, Jeff Moore, Stephanie Hartell & Ben Kepple  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward  
Director of Human Services Leanne Theodore  
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina

**I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence** in honor of long-standing Commission Member Joseph McKernan, Jr.

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 September 2023 Commission meeting**

Corrections noted and completed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the Special Meeting, September 25, 2023 as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

**IV. Recreation Administrator's Report**

**a. Fall and Winter Program Update**

According to Mr. Ward, the flag football program is going well despite all the rain. He noted that there is a drop in registrations for the basketball program. Registrations are down 20% but there are a few weeks before the skills day so he expects the numbers to increase. Mr. Ward is looking to run a basketball program that is similar to the flag program. They would have a junior MBA as well as a WMBA complete with team jerseys. Mr. Ward noted that confusion between the recreation program and the travel program may be part of the low registration numbers. Participants need to make the team for the travel program and the Recreation program accepts all skill levels. Mr. Ward stated that participants can play in both the travel and Recreation programs. Mr. Ward will put the word out.

**b. Rec Activity Fund Report**

Mr. Ward provided the Recreation Commission with a plan on how to spend and reinvest the cash balance. He highlighted some items; the Spellman Park basketball courts repair, painting the Spellman Park restrooms, purchase of windscreens for the tennis courts, AED's (there was some discussion on the cabinets that house the AED's), purchasing nine additional disc golf baskets, adding a pavilion near the fitness area in Spellman Park (with appropriate approvals), putting together a Park Design Plan to be completed by an outside vendor, the Borough half basketball court and purchasing an auto line painter. Mr. Ward stated that he will report back to the Recreation Commission on a quarterly basis. There was some further discussion on the disc golf area and the plan for nine additional holes.

**V. Finance Reports**

**a. General Fund -10173**

This account is on target.

**b. Special Activity -21100**

The Special Activity -21100 account revenue is \$46,240, the expenses are \$136,692 with a cash balance of \$161,020. According to Mr. Ward, this is still upside-down due to the structure of the summer programs and the fiscal year end.

**c. Disc Golf Fund -21102**

Mr. Ward commented that there were no changes to the revenue or expenses, however, he highlighted that 88 rounds have been played this past month for a total of 845 rounds from January to September. These are the amounts recorded on the disc golf app Udisc.

The course will be used even more when it is a full 18 holes. There is more to offer with a full course and they have the space to build it. Mr. Christina has not done any tournaments or programs; however, it will be easier to do so with 18 holes. There was some further discussion on disc golf.

Mr. Ward included a recreation basketball flyer and an indoor flag football flyer in the Commissioners packets. There was some discussion on indoor flag football.

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



**VI. Chairman's Report**

According to Chairman Crowley all is going well for Recreation. He commented that the Boathouse project is still going slowly.

**VII. Old Business**

**a. Update Tennis & Pickleball Courts**

Mr. Ward stated that they are no longer seeing the blistering issue on the tennis courts, however, they will still be testing it (\$2500 for the testing). There is also a power line disruption. Eversource will be out to assess the issue.

**b. Update Basketball Court Repair in Spellman Park**

The courts are all lined and looking good. They are still determining a date for the Joe Ciriello dedication. Mr. Ward recommends the day after Thanksgiving but he wants to approve that with the family first.

**c. Update on New Courts for Town Dock Area**

Mr. Ward did some preliminary work and came up with two options that he provided with the Recreation Commission. Option one would be in the same area that they put up the lobster pot tree. He suggested that a portable basketball hoop would be used and stored during the winter to minimize damage. The other location would be at the other side of that field. Chairman Crowley had some concerns with the locations as option one is where the Blessing of the Fleet puts up their tents. There was some further discussion regarding the court location. Chairman Crowley suggested looking at the area again with Mr. Ward to find a suitable location. Mr. Ward noted that this is still a work in progress and that the Warden & Burgesses is favorable to the idea.

**VIII. New Business**

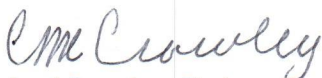
None.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:50 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Notes: Next scheduled meeting is Monday, November 27, 2023 / 6:00 at Stonington Human Services**

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman