

Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6:00 PM
SPECIAL MEETING
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
Absent: Vice Chairman Joe McKernan

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 motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the Regular Meeting, June 26, 2023 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Summer Program Final Report

According to Mr. Ward, this was the best summer ever. They ran 53 individual programs with 1365 enrolled, which was up 5% from the best year. This does not include teams that used the fields, disc golf or pavilion rentals. Revenue was up 25% from last year. There were 422 participants registered in the week-long summer camps. Summer camp revenue was up 35%. They ran more programs and weekly camp registrations was well received. The middle school camp registrations also grew in number. Riding camp was sold out with 24 participants registered. There was some discussion on this program. The tennis tournament raised over \$10,000. Pickleball has also been well received. There was some discussion about how to reserve the pickleball courts. Mr. Ward suggested putting together a master plan for the parks.

b. Fall and Winter Program Update

There are 473 participants registered for fall programs. Two hundred and seventy kids are registered for flag football. There has been a good response to pickleball lessons. Registrations for rec basketball has begun. This will run at West Vine Street School and Dean's Mill. They are working on putting together high school age girls volleyball.

Mr. Ward noted that they will be installing AEO's Lifepak CR2 (defibrillators) at Spellman Park. He has been working with Sgt. Hersh and Captain Schneider on this project. There will be one by the tennis courts and one between Piver and Ballato fields. They will be in locking cabinets in which the user will dial 911 to receive a code from dispatch to open the unit. These units are weather resistant and should be installed before winter.

The outdoor bathrooms will be painted by PC Painting for approximately \$10,000. They were previously painted with epoxy which cracked and peeled. This company will remove the peeling epoxy and repaint.

V. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

According to Mr. Ward, this account is on target.

b. Special Activity -21100

The fiscal year ending July 2023's total revenue was \$313,248 with total expenses at \$224,449 and a net over expenditures of \$88,799. Mr. Ward will be using some of this money towards the basketball courts and installing the AED's. He will be coming up with a plan for the balance. The month ending August 2023 is a bit upside-down which is usual for this time of year due to the summer camp program. Recreation has a cash balance of \$193,720.

c. Disc Golf Fund -21102

Mr. Ward indicated that the Udisc app recorded 757 rounds played. This is the number of players that checked in to the app so the actual number of rounds played could be higher. He is still exploring the possibility of adding another nine holes. It takes a few weeks to do the clearing in the designated areas.

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

Chairman Crowley noted that he has heard a lot of compliments on the fields. The maintenance of the fields is superb and it is great that everything is all in one complex. Commissioners Norcross, Moore and Theodore all commented that they have also heard from others how great the fields are in Stonington.

Chairman Crowley stated that, in regard to the Mystic River Boathouse Park, a grant in the amount of \$500,000 was awarded. They still need approximately \$400,000 for the project.

VII. Old Business

a. Update Tennis & Pickleball Courts

Mr. Ward informed the Commissioners that there is an issue with the paint on the courts. He believes something happened during the application process. When it rains, bubbles form. The product used is Nova USA acrylic which the vendor has used previously and has not had any problems. Mr. Ward will be meeting with the design crew and town officials tomorrow. They will work on a plan to correct this issue.

b. Update Basketball Court Repair in Spellman Park

The completion date for this project is to be determined. They will have Joe Ciriello's dedication ceremony when this project is complete.

c. Update on New Courts for Town Dock Area

Mr. Ward looked at the half court dimensions that they have in Wallingford. He believes this will be perfect for the Stonington Borough project. The Bourgh Warden and Burgesses have given a favorable response to the project. Mr. Ward feels that they have more support than adversity for the project. This will not be a full court so it will not draw crowds. It will be large enough to play three on three.

Mr. Ward provided the Commissioners with the Fall Flyer. He also noted that the flag football program was featured.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:53 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes: Next scheduled meeting is Monday, October 23, 2023 / 6:00 at Stonington Human Services

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman