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**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, February 22, 2016 at 6:00 PM  
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Chairman C. Michael Crowley and Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak  
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Jennifer Norcross  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward  
Human Services Manager Leanne Theodore  
Stonington Community Center Representative Kelsey Haack  
Student Heaven Hurd

**Absent:** Beth Quesnel, Joe Ciriello & Larry Theodore

Chairman Michael Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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**I. Public's Opportunity to Address the Commission**

**II. Secretary's Report**

One change was made to the Chairman's Report section of the January 25<sup>th</sup> Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes. Recreation Administrator Richard Ward contacted Bill King and Ken Donovan, not Chairman Crowley.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Prachniak to approve January 25, 2016 Secretary's Report with the above noted changes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

**III. Election of Officers**

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Prachniak to elect C. Michael Crowley Recreation Commission Chair. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKernan, all in favor, motion approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to elect Frank Prachniak Recreation Commission Vice-Chair. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

**IV. Budget Reports – Month Ending January 2016**

- a. General Fund -10173**
- b. Special Activity -21100**

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to approve the budget report. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Prachniak, all in favor, motion approved.

- V. Recreation Administrator's Report**
- a. Winter Program Update**
  - b. Spring Plans: Brochure Preview**
  - c. Vision 2020**
  - d. Field Usage Fee**

Recreation Administrator Richard Ward noted that the adult fitness program is still in the red but he anticipates that numbers will increase. The Recreation Department's profit is \$10,000 above last year looking at the year to date numbers.

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that he is hiring certified officials for the high school basketball league. The Safe Boating Course numbers look good. The Celtics vs. Heat trip has sold out. Numbers for Winter Programs are ahead from last year.

Mr. Ward also spoke about the new brochures. They have started accepting online program registrations via [stonington.recdesk.com](http://stonington.recdesk.com) which can also be found in the brochure. Mr. Ward is planning on composing a back-pack flyer to remind students and parents about the brochure and programs.

There are a few new programs for the spring. One is a Spring Powder Puff that will take place in June and the other new program is Art in the Park.

Human Services Manager Leanne Theodore took a moment to address the Commission about the middle school age recreation camp being offered to those in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade age groups. It has long been discussed that a program was needed to address the gap.

While reaching out to see the needs of non-profit groups, Ms. Theodore discovered, while discussing with Beth Stewart from the Stonington Community Center, that the COMO runs a similar program targeting the same age group. Ms. Theodore sees this as an opportunity to work together with the COMO and see if the program will grow. It is just a conversation at this point; however, Ms. Theodore is interested to see how the numbers progress and she believes there is a lot of potential for this program and collaboration to be had with the COMO.

The recreation camp targeting 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders is currently accepting 10 children but will be willing to work alongside the COMO, who's program accommodates up to 20 children, to get the program progressing. Mr. Ward stated that they will be able to utilize the playground, sports fields and gyms. The program will try to create a separate camp atmosphere conducive to the middle school child compared to the existing elementary school aged children's camp.

Discussion of Vision 2020 was tabled to next month's meeting.

Mr. Ward reviewed the Proposed Field Usage Fees. Ms. Theodore suggested adding a disclaimer for full day rates. Commissioner McKernan had three questions about the fees. His first question was where the flag football program fell into the chart. Mr. Ward said that it's a program run by Recreation so it does not follow the chart. Second, he asked if the rates were in line with others in the area and Mr. Ward said they were. Finally,

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Commissioner McKernan asked if there are family rates or a sibling discount. Mr. Ward and the Commission decided to add \$25/person, max \$40/family to the proposed field usage fees. Vice-Chair Prachniak asked Mr. Ward if both a clinic and camp would be run by those who select that option. Mr. Ward answered that yes, both a clinic and camp must be run and the set up for a clinic and camp depends on the supply and demand for that particular sport/activity. The Commission decided that there is a need to define clinic and camp to include on the proposed field usage fees.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Prachniak to approve the Proposed Field Usage Fees with the addition of the following: a day rate disclaimer, a flat rate \$40 max per family, and set guidelines on clinics and camps (a minimum of eight hours for a clinic and a camp must run at least 4 consecutive days). Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved. The Proposed Field Usage Fees, with above noted additions, will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for final approval.

**VI. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Crowley addressed the Commission and informed them that he is looking into rebuilding the fire pits. He also noted that a rock needs to be picked out to install the plaque for Mr. Crouse at the tennis courts in time for the ceremony in April. This item was sent to Ad-hoc to sort out and discuss the details. The next Ad-hoc meeting was set for Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Finally, Chairman Crowley told the Commission to be prepared should the proposition of a dog park go through. It may be handed to the Recreation Commission to oversee.

**VII. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee**

Construction will be starting for the ADA path and bleachers which should only take about four weeks in June. There will still be access to the fields.

**VIII. Old Business**

The school is working on cleaning out the areas that the Recreation Commission asked. It should be cleaned out for spring time. They are also addressing the batting cages, the area around the Palmer building, and the trailer. Mr. Ward noted that rec. will be buying new windscreens for the courts.

**IX. New Business**

**X. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chair Prachniak at 7:06 pm. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKernan, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Note: Next month's meeting Monday, March 28, 2016.**

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman