

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6PM  
SPS District Office-Board Room  
40 Field Street, Pawcatuck**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak  
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Larry Theadore, Jennifer Norcross, Stephanie Hartell  
Alternate Ben Kepple  
Recreation Administrator Rich Ward  
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina

**Absent:** Chairman C. Michael Crowley (Arrived at 6:23PM) Commissioner Jeff Moore

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

Vice-Chairman Prachniak called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM

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

**III.Secretary's Report**

**a. Approval of minutes from Nov 2021 Commission Meeting**

Commissioner Theadore wanted to confirm where the American Flag would be placed that was discussed at the previous meeting. Mr. Ward stated that he is looking into it and thinks there is a nice spot on a grassy area near the Palmer Building off of Spellman Drive. There was discussion on cost and including the town engineer in any installation plans.

A motion was made by Commissioner Theadore to approve November 22, 2021 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion Seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

**IV.Recreation Administrator's Report**

**Winter Program Update**

Mr. Ward stated that he is please with the programs that are currently running. High School Rec basketball has about 40 kids registered and has gone well for the first 2 weeks. Commissioner Norcross asked a question about mask use and spectators allowed at these games. Mr. Ward and Mr. Christina stated that masks are mandatory and that we are currently allowing two spectators per participant, but if that gets out of hand it is subject to change.

Mr. Ward stated that there was a very good response to Como/Rec basketball program. The first two weeks have been successful and there are about 30 volunteers for the program. Mr. Ward mentioned that there are 27 adults registered for the fitness classes and they are taking place both outdoors and inside St. Michael's church basement. Mr. Ward noted that there are currently 21 registrations for the Yankees/Red Sox bus trip set for July 16, 2022.

Mr. Ward stated that the Hike Stonington program had 306 participants for the year of 2021. Commissioner Norcross mentioned that she really enjoyed the program and spoke highly of many of the hikes.

Mr. Ward stated that the "Red Trail" in Spellman Park has been completed by Eagle Scout Christian Cullen. The trail uses some existing trails, but most of the new trail was blazed and it will eventually become "Tom McCoy Run," we are just waiting for the plaque and for the weather to get nicer to dedicate this trail to Mr. McCoy. Commissioner Theadore asked about the bridge between Parkwood drive and the East Pavilion in Spellman Park and Mr. Ward confirmed that it was completed last year by Chad Obrey.

## **V. Finance Reports**

### **a. General Fund – 10173**

According to Mr. Ward this account is mostly on target. He noted that the utilities line reads as mostly expended. Mr. Ward stated that most of the utilities for lights are used in the summer and fall, but any further expense will come out of program lines.

Commissioner Norcross noted that this fall all of the lights on the fields were updated which should lower cost and make a difference going forward. Mr. Ward also stated that he believes he has already asked for more money in this line for the next fiscal year.

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

Mr. Ward stated that this report has a slightly different look, but is normal for this time of year.

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

Mr. Ward noticed that this is a new report dealing with our new Disc Golf Account. He stated that our fundraising goal to finish building a 9-hole Disc Golf Course was \$20,000. The account currently shows \$13,913.40, but Mr. Ward noted that we have also received \$5,000 since this report was run and we are very close to meeting our goal with only a couple proposed sponsorships still available. Commissioner Theadore stated that he will bring the sponsorship forms to his former employer Davis Standard. He also asked about the costs for the public to play in leagues and Tournaments. Mr. Ward replied that playing daily will be free, but future tournaments and leagues could charge a program fee that has yet to be determined.

**d. Approval of Finance Report**

Commissioner Norcross made a motion to accept the Jan 24, 2022 Stonington Recreation Commission Finance Report as stated. Motion Seconded by Commissioner McKernan, all in favor, approved

**VI. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commission that the Boathouse project is currently waiting on money to be allocated from the state and will be a while before anything happens

Chairman Crowley mentioned that the First Selectwoman has asked the various town Commissions to start give a few top items they are working on to post on the town website so that the population can be more aware of what is occurring.

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

**VIII. Old Business**

**a. Tennis Courts**

Mr. Ward stated that there was a meeting with the committee and Engineering firm two weeks ago. There are concerns that do to current construction materials costs that the Final dollar amount will come in higher than the amount we have set aside when the project goes out to bid. There was discussion of the Engineer talking to the Construction companies that do this type of Tennis Court project to get a pre-bid amount before going out for a formal bid. Mr. Ward stated that the goal is to begin the project in early September 2022. He stated that we really don't want to wait another year as there are some pretty bad cracks already right now, an we may be in a situation that even this spring we have to shut down some courts.

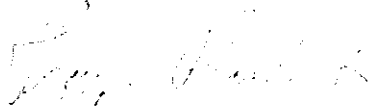
**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:55PM. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKernan, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Notes:**

- a. Next Meeting 6:00 PM, February 28, 2022 at SPS District Offices**

Respectfully Submitted,



Frank Prachniak, Vice-Chairman