

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, June 27, 2022 at 6:00 PM  
SPS District Office – Board Room  
40 Field Street, Pawcatuck**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley & Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak  
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Jennifer Norcross, Larry Theadore, Jeff Moore & Stephanie Hartell  
Alternate Ben Kepple  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward

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

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

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

**III. Secretary's Report**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the Regular Meeting, May 23, 2022 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

**IV. Recreation Administrator's Report**

**2022 – Best Summer Ever!?**

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that summer camp has begun. He also stated that there are 1,149 individuals registered across all the programs. In 2019, the number of individuals registered for summer programs was 947 and until now, that was the best year. Mr. Ward further stated that 2022 registrations have 2019 registrations beat by 20% and there are still registrations coming in for 2022 programs. He has been working on making sure that all programs happen and happen safely. Chairman Crowley questioned if the increase is due to offering new programs. Mr. Ward stated that they have structured the summer camp program differently this year. They usually register 150 but now they have 195 registered. They also added a kayak event to the summer programming. The Yankees/Red Sox trip has sold out. There are 125 people registered for the soccer program and they also have people registered for disc golf.

Mr. Ward noted that they have met with the homeowner to get an easement in order to connect Spellman Park to Parkwood Dr. This will connect Moss Park to Spellman Park. His intent is to connect all the paths.

**V. Finance Reports**

**a. General Fund -10173**

Mr. Ward has spent down all the lines and noted that they only exceeded the amount in the Utilities line item. They are budgeted for \$4,500 and used \$4,575. Mr. Ward stated that next year's budget has \$5,000 in the Utilities line item.

**b. Special Activity -21100**

Mr. Ward noted that the fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup> and there will be a positive net of approximately \$20,000.

**c. Disc Golf Fund -21102**

According to Mr. Ward, there will be a new sign going up this summer with all the sponsors listed. Each hole will have a flag with it's sponsor. Mr. Ward is looking for two more sponsors. He further noted that all nine holes are open and that they will probably begin a league in the fall. He stated that he will spend the remaining amount in this line item before the fiscal year end.

**VI. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Crowley commented that people have been using the fields and that is good to see.

Chairman Crowley commented that the park at the boathouse project is to be built. He noted that the First Selectwoman has been actively working on this project.

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

**VIII. Old Business**

**a. Tennis Court Construction Update**

Mr. Ward commented that the bids for this project came in 30-40% higher than originally planned. He stated that there was some ARPA funding available due to other Town projects falling through, therefore, the tennis court project has been fully funded including all the lights. The contract is being signed and the project is set to begin in September. Construction will take six to eight weeks. Mr. Ward stated that he appreciates all the Commissioner's work on making this project happen. Chairman Crowley gave credit to Tim O'Brien from the Board of Finance and First Selectwoman Chesebrough for their support with the project.

Chairman Crowley suggested that, once the new courts are built, to name the pickle ball courts after Joe Ciriello. The tennis courts are named after George Crouse and Chairman Crowley thought that it would be appropriate for both men to be honored at the tennis courts since they both coached together. Commissioner Norcross stated that she likes this idea but also suggested possibly naming the basketball courts after Joe Ciriello. These ideas will be discussed in the fall.

**IX. New Business**

**X. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner McKernan at 6:31 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Notes: No meeting in July & August - next monthly meeting is September 26**

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman