

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, September 26, 2022 at 6:00 PM  
SPS District Office – Board Room  
40 Field Street, Pawcatuck**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley  
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Jennifer Norcross, Larry Theadore, Jeff Moore & Stephanie Hartell  
Alternate Ben Kepple  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward  
Recreation Coordinator Pete Christina

Absent: Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak

**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**

None.

**III. Secretary's Report**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to approve the Regular Meeting, June 27, 2022 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

**IV. Recreation Administrator's Report**

**Summer Report**

Mr. Ward read aloud a letter that he sent to First Selectwoman Chesebrough noting that this was the best summer they have ever had. They had their fair share of challenges; however, revenue was up as well as participation. Mr. Ward stated that Mr. Christina played a huge part in this success. Mr. Ward further thanked the many instructors; the front-end staff and the field maintenance staff. Mr. Ward also thanked his own staff at Human Services for their patience and support. He is very appreciative to all those involved. Mr. Ward went on to say that he set very lofty goals when he first came to Stonington in his Vision 2020 plan. Though it took longer than he envisioned to reach those goals, this was a phenomenal summer.

Mr. Christina confirmed that it was an excellent summer and the staff member position that was added to help him was essential. Commissioner Norcross asked if numbers of participants were limited to which Mr. Ward stated they were not limited due to Covid-19 protocols, however, they were limited due to staffing levels and the number they could safely serve. Summer camp served

175 participants which is up from the normal 140 due to the restructure of the program which now allows for weekly admissions. Mr. Christina noted that they do not get as many applications for staff as they would like to see. Commissioner Hartell suggested community service credit for filling gaps in staffing. There was some further discussion on staffing the Summer Camp Program.

#### **Fall Programing Update**

Mr. Ward stated that they will be starting a new pickle ball league. Chairman Crowley suggested naming the new pickle ball courts after Commissioner Joe Ciriello. Mr. Ward stated that they would need to go through the process to name the courts.

### **V. Finance Reports**

#### **a. General Fund -10173**

On target, per Mr. Ward.

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

According to Mr. Ward, the net revenue is \$34,818. He noted that they are upside down at this point as usual due to how the fiscal year runs. They have spent \$65,160 and the net revenue over expenditure is at negative \$30,341. The cash fund balance is \$139,350.

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

The revenue for this fund is at \$19,517. Mr. Ward thanked all the sponsors. Davis Standard signed up for a Legacy Sponsorship.

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

### **VI. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Crowley commented that Mr. Ward and his staff did a great job with the summer programs and he further noted that the fields are beautiful.

Chairman Crowley stated that the Boathouse project is moving along slowly. Money still needs to be raised for the building. The Selectman's Office has made a commitment for the park to be ready next year. He met with the First Selectwoman, the Chief and the Captain with concerns regarding traffic. Plans indicate that there will be 15 parking spots on the property, however, Chairman Crowley may suggest possibly creating a turn around so people can drop of kayaks, etc., then park across the street. Chairman Crowley thinks this will be a very busy place. Mr. Ward provided a sample flyer for the park and noted that Recreation's involvement will be passive, meaning they will probably not offer organized events through Recreation at this location.

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

No meeting held.

**VIII. Old Business**

**a. Tennis Court Construction Update**

According to Mr. Ward, this project is progressing. They are waiting for the rebar to be delivered soon. There is a meeting with the construction crew this coming Wednesday.

**b. Disc Golf Open House/Grand Opening**

The Grand Opening for Disc Golf is set for October. Mr. Ward will get the Commissioners the exact date. This will be an open house for sponsors and stakeholders. Mr. Ward is not sure how much use the disc golf is currently getting, however, Mr. Christina noted it is being used on a daily basis.

**IX. New Business**

The engineers have been in contact regarding surveying the Eisenberg property for the easement near Moss Park. They will be starting the process soon to write up an agreement. The goal is to have the agreement finalized by the end of the year. Mr. Ward's vision is to connect and map out all the trails. There was some further discussion on the trails.

**a. 2023 Meeting Calendar**

Chairman Crowley noted that he would like to keep the meetings at the Stonington Public Schools District Office Board Room.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moore to approve the 2023 Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule as the fourth Monday of the month: January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, September 25, October 23 & November 27, 2023. (Note: No meetings held in July, August or December 2023) to be held at the Stonington Public Schools District Office Board Room. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

**X. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Norcross at 6:37 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Notes: Next monthly meeting is October 24 at District Offices**

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman