

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2023 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 Program Coordinator Pete Christina

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 November 2022 Commission meeting

Minor typographical error noted by Commissioner McKernan.

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to approve the Regular Meeting, November 28, 2022 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report with noted correction. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Winter Programming Update

Mr. Ward noted that it is mid-season for the Como/Rec basketball league which is held on Saturday mornings. The girl's league was cancelled due to low registration; however, they were able to run a skills and drills clinic for the girls. One flag football session has ended and a new one has begun. They have also started high school basketball. Pickleball began in December with sold-out sessions. It is held in the District Office gym.

b. Anticipated Spring Programs

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that they are getting ready with Early Bird registrations for summer camp. There will be some returning staff and interviews will begin

mid-February. The maximum number for full-time camp registrations is 125 and 25 maximum weekly registrations. There are different themes for each of the weeks. According to Mr. Ward, the boating safety course will return, they will be running an outdoor NFL Flag Football tournament, HIKE Stonington will be starting up and they will add tennis programming when the courts are complete. Mr. Christina noted that Public Works will be putting in a parking area near the disc golf course.

V. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

Mr. Ward noted that they are a bit over in the Program Expense line item which he will be looking into, however, everything else is on target. The Utilities line item is a bit tight since the electric bill has increased across all town departments. The town is looking into this issue. Mr. Ward has put in for a \$500 increase to this line item for the upcoming budget. Chairman Crowley commented that he would prefer to ask for the money upfront instead of moving money around from other line items.

b. Special Activity -21100

The revenue in the Special Activity account is \$79,798 which is up from this time last year, according to Mr. Ward. There is \$15,063 in the Tennis Programs line item. The flag football revenue is climbing back up (indoor flag football was not held last year). Camp registrations will begin on February 1st. The cash balance is \$110,352.

c. Disc Golf Fund -21102

The net revenue over expenditures in the disc golf fund is \$5611. Mr. Ward stated that they have to put in the last of the tee boxes and then they will look into adding more holes. Chairman Crowley asked if they should give it some time before they start expanding. Mr. Christina commented that there is an app where players can post reviews and he has seen reviews stating "great course, but small." According to Mr. Christina, people are looking to play 18 holes. They will need 9 more sponsors for these additional holes. It is also easier to hold events if they offer a full 18 hole course.

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

VI. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley stated the boathouse project is moving along on the permits and they are planning on opening the park as early as fall.

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commission that Vice Chairman Frank Prachniak has resigned from the board after serving twenty-eight years. A copy of his resignation letter was included in the Commissioner's packets.

VII. Naming of Outdoor Basketball Court in Spellman Park (action required)

The Recreation Commission is looking to name the outdoor basketball courts after Joseph P. Ciriello and will move this item on to the Selectman's office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to support the naming of the outdoor basketball courts after Joseph P. Ciriello and have Mr. Ward forward this to the Selectman's office. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

VIII. Old Business

a. Update: Tennis Court Construction

Mr. Ward stated that the lights have been installed. There have been issues with rain run-off causing ponding issues. It will cost between \$5,000 - \$6,000 to install a rain guard which allows for the collection and distribution of the run-off.

Mr. Ward is hoping for a warm spring so the tennis court project can be completed. There are two different leagues that use it during the summer. He is also looking into setting up an online schedule for usage.

b. Update: Moss Park Connector

Mr. Ward noted that there has not been much movement on this since the last meeting. There was some discussion on the location of the connector.

IX. New Business

Chairman Crowley noted that Mr. Ben Kepple will be appointed to the Recreation Commission at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

X. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:33 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes: Next scheduled meeting is February 27, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman