

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, March 27, 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 & Ben Kepple
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward

Absent: Commissioner Stephanie Hartell

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

II. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

Kathy Duggan, Stonington resident

Ms. Duggan stated that her daughter is on the tennis team and she is before the Recreation Commission tonight to inquire about the progress of the tennis courts. She noted that the kids are trying to stay positive.

Mr. Ward stated that the tennis courts are in a holding mode. The temperatures need to stay at 50 degrees or above in order for the contractor to complete the resurfacing. The resurfacing is a 1-2 day process and once this is done, there is a 2-3 day cure period. Mr. Ward stated that the contractor determines when the temperatures are sufficient. This contractor is in the process of completing three different courts. He believes that we are looking at the middle to end of May for a completion date. Chairman Crowley added that the tennis matches will be held at the COMO for now. Mr. Ward noted that pressure has been put on the contractor to finish the job, however, it is crucial that the completion of the courts is done correctly and under recommended conditions.

III. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from January 2023 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the Regular Meeting, January 23, 2023 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Spring Program Update

Mr. Ward stated that the spring programs are doing fantastic. They wrapped up flag football last month and they just had an outdoor tournament this past Sunday. They added four sessions of pickleball and once the tennis courts are complete, Mr. Ward stated that they can hold pickleball sessions outside. They also added additional boating safety courses.

b. Anticipated Summer Programs

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commissioners that he is starting to finalize the summer flyer. They added tennis lessons to be held on the new courts. There will be a basketball camp for both boys and girls. They will also be adding adult field hockey. Riding camp will return as well as the Red Sox / Yankee bus trip which will be Saturday, August 19th at 1pm. The tickets cost \$175/person which includes the bus trip and all you can eat ball park fare before the game. Mr. Ward stated that they have had a tremendous start to the summer camp program.

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward if he could list all the programs offered with all the participants for each program. Mr. Ward stated that he can do that for the Commissioners on a monthly basis.

V. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

Mr. Ward stated that the general fund is on target. Some adjustments have been made and he will be spending down all the lines before the end of the fiscal year.

b. Special Activity -21100

Mr. Ward noted that they have had a great couple of months. The total revenue is up to \$162,204 from \$103,785 in 2022. This is 56% over Recreation's best year on record. Everything is looking very good. The tennis program is at \$17,439 up from ~\$14,000 last year, more than likely due to adding pickleball programming. Flag football is at ~\$40,000 up from ~\$20,000 last year. Cash balance is at \$163,366.

c. Disc Golf Fund -21102

As of March 23rd, the total revenue in the disc golf account is \$19,454. They will be starting up another sponsorship. Net revenue over expenditures is \$3200. Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the numbers from the UDisc app showed that 500 rounds were played on the Stonington course in 2022 with a total of 371 hours spent out on the course. October 2022 was the busiest month with 113 rounds played. Thursday, October 20th was the busiest day. There were players from 16 different states, the furthest state being Washington. It was noted that these were the numbers from just one app, so there was probably 10-15% more activity than what was recorded on Udisc. Commissioner Moore suggested maybe getting a sponsorship from one of the disc golf apps.

There was some discussion on programming being held at the administration building. Mr. Ward noted that Recreation does have sufficient access at this time. He is able to use the high school during the summer months

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 informed the Recreation Commission that the Boathouse project needs to come up with \$587,000. They are applying for grants. The permitting is being worked on which will take 2-3 months. They do have permission from the Mystic Seaport for parking.

VII. Old Business

a. Update: Tennis Court Construction

According to Mr. Ward, they are in a holding pattern, as discussed at the beginning of the meeting, until the weather is appropriate for completing the resurfacing.

VIII. New Business

a. Stonington Beautification Plantings

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the Stonington Beautification Committee has agreed to donate \$2,000 for 5-6 native trees to be planted in the spring of 2023 and the fall of 2024. They will also purchase \$200 worth of young saplings. They will plant pine trees by the rail road tracks near the West Pavilion. Three to four trees will be planted near the multipurpose field. They will be working with Public Works and are aware of the drainage system in that area. Mr. Ward stated that the Stonington Beautification Committee will also be helping with the plantings in the area dedicated to Joe Ciriello. It was discussed that Joe Ciriello's dedication be moved to the fall to allow time to patch the courts and get the plantings in. The Recreation Commission agreed to wait until early September.

Commissioner Norcross stated that the parking by the disc golf course is great. She also noted all the clearing that has been done around Spellman Park. Mr. Ward stated that Public Works did all the clearing and he agreed that it looks great. Commissioner Moore asked if there was a date set for opening the bathrooms? Mr. Ward stated that it is on the school's radar and asked Commissioner Moore to follow-up. Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Curioso at Public Works.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:52 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes: Next scheduled meeting is April 24, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Michael Crowley".

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman