

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM
SPS District Office – Board Room
40 Field Street, Pawcatuck**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley
Commissioners Jennifer Norcross, Larry Theadore, Stephanie Hartell & Ben Kepple
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore

Absent: Commissioner Joe McKernan & Jeff Moore

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

II. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

No one from the public in attendance.

III. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from March 2023 Commission meeting

One adjustment was noted to correct 40 degrees to 50 degrees under agenda item II. **Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the Regular Meeting, March 27, 2023 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as corrected. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hartell, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Election of Officers & Committee Members

- a. Chairman**
- b. Vice-Chair**
- c. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee**

Tabled until next month to vote on with a full representation of the Recreation Commission. All present agreed.

V. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Summer Programs

Mr. Ward provided the Recreation Commissioners with the summer programs flyer. Mr. Ward stated that they have sold out the spring pickleball programs and will be offering summer registrations. They will also be doing a trail cleanup at Spellman Park. Mr. Ward noted that the

riding club was well received. Mr. Ward is very proud of the wide variety that Recreation has to offer. Chairman Crowley stated that it is very impressive.

Mr. Ward provided the Recreation Commissioners a breakdown of numbers of recreation participants by program. He will continue to provide this on a monthly basis. There are 580 participants registered so far in summer programs. The Summer Playground Day Camp registrations have sold out at 125 participants.

VI. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

According to Mr. Ward, the general fund account is on target. He stated that they may have some money left over in the utilities line item since they have not been using the lighting at the tennis courts due to the construction. Mr. Ward mentioned that there will be a new scheme for the lighting at the tennis courts. The lights will go off at a designated time and they will need to push a button for them to come back on.

b. Special Activity -21100

Mr. Ward stated that the total revenue in this account is \$205,551.91. He expressed that this has been the best summer camp registration yet at \$97,777.29. They will look into whether or not the summer camp program needs to be expanded. The expenses for the special activity account came in at \$175,397.37 and the net revenue over expenditures is \$195,292.37.

c. Disc Golf Fund -21102

Mr. Ward commented that they have not spent anything since last month and there is a \$3279.09 balance. Mr. Ward stated that, according to the app Udisc, 266 rounds have been played on the course so far this year. These numbers are just from one app, and there are many that play that do not log it on the app. Mr. Ward noted that the course is getting a lot of use.

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

VII. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commission that it has been requested to put in a basketball court in the Borough. A location will be discussed with Public Works and the Borough Warden & Burgess. It has also been requested of Mr. Ward for a basketball court at Haley's Way. Mr. Ward will look further into this request.

Chairman Crowley noted that they are still waiting on \$575,000 in funding for the boathouse project to proceed, however, there has been progress with the permitting.

Chairman Crowley stated that he is thankful that Joe Ciriello's dedication ceremony has been postponed until fall since the condition of the basketball courts needs to be addressed. He is looking to meet with the town engineer to determine the cause of the cracking in the surface. (See agenda item IX. **New Business** for discussion in regard to the basketball courts). Mr. Ward

commented that the Beautification Committee has some plantings that can be planted in the area of the basketball courts prior to the dedication ceremony. Mr. Ward suggested installing a rock with a plaque for the memorial.

Chairman Crowley reiterated that he is very impressed with the summer programs flyer.

VIII. Old Business

a. Update: Tennis Court Construction

According to Mr. Ward, they started resurfacing the tennis courts today and the lines and nets will be in by the end of the week. Once done, it will take a week to cure, therefore, the courts should be ready for matches two weeks from today.

Chairman Crowley noted that pickleball is taking off. Mr. Ward commented that Recreation went from having no courts to having two courts. If he feels that these two courts do not fill the demand, then maybe another area for additional courts can be discussed. Chairman Crowley suggested having a plan and location in place ahead of time. Mr. Ward does not want to put pickleball courts on the tennis courts. There are two designated pickleball courts and any additional courts would be best in another location separate from the tennis courts.

IX. New Business

Mr. Ward provided the Recreation Commission with two estimates for fixing the cracks on the basketball courts and noted that they have used one company previously and he could go to Finance for a bid waiver. Chairman Crowley suggests meeting with the town engineer to determine the cause of the cracks before going ahead with fixing them. He is afraid that it will just crack again if the underlying problems are not addressed first.

X. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:42 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes: Next scheduled meeting is May 22, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman