

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, June 26, 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, Joe McKernan, Jeff Moore, Stephanie Hartell
& Ben Kepple
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

II. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

Leo Fowler, Stonington Borough Resident
Hugo Wustman, Stonington Borough Resident
Aiden McCarthy, Stonington Borough Resident
Amanda Barnes, Stonington Borough Resident

Mr. Fowler informed the Recreation Commission that they have never had an adequate place to play basketball in the Borough. They currently play in the church parking lot. It would be nice to have lines drawn and a fence. He commented that the current hoop is on an incline. The ball goes into the street and it is dangerous for little kids. Mr. Wustman suggested an adjustable hoop and a more adequate location would be by the Town Docks. Mr. McCarthy noted that cars park under the hoop so it is not always available to use.

Chairman Crowley stated that he, along with Town Highway, looked at the area near where the portables are located near the playground. A permanent, adjustable hoop was suggested so all ages can play. Mr. Ward noted that there is not enough room for two hoops. He further thinks the location by the docks would not be as disruptive for the neighbors. Chairman Crowley commented that the hoop at the church is not sufficient. He suggested they contact First Selectwoman Chesbrough. Mr. Ward asked Mr. Fowler, Mr. Wustman, and Mr. McCarthy if they could help reach out to the neighbors to which they agreed to help. The Recreation Commission thanked them for reaching out.

Mr. Ward commented that the Recreation Commission is in favor of this project and agrees that the location near the Town Dock is town-owned and is a good spot. He will look into getting estimates.

III. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from April 2023 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to approve the Regular Meeting, April 24, 2023 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Election of Officers & Committee Members

a. Chairman

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to nominate Mike Crowley as Chairman. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Vice-Chair

A motion was made by Chairman Crowley to nominate Joe McKernan as Vice Chair. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee

There was some discussion on what this committee involves. Commissioner Moore and Commissioner Norcross both agreed to join the Facilities Ad-hoc Committee.

V. Discussion: Change in meeting location back to Stonington Human Services (possible action required)

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that they have permission to meet back at Human Services. There was some discussion on the pros and cons of this meeting location.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moore that, starting September 2023 and continuing through October and November 2023, the Stonington Recreation Commission meeting location will be relocated from the Board Room at SPS District Office to the Community Room at Stonington Human Services. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

VI. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Summer Programs

According to Mr. Ward, as of June 22nd, there are 918 participants registered in summer programs. The Summer Camp sold out a month ago. There are 5-6 on a waiting list for each week of camp, however, Mr. Ward stated that they would need additional staffing to accommodate those on the waitlist and it would not be feasible to do so. Mr. Ward commented that the weekly offering is still new. There are 25 spots in the weekly registration and 125 spots for the full summer registration. The weekly registrations allow for kids to still participate in summer camp but also gives them the flexibility to do other things over the summer. Mr. Ward stated that today was the first day of camp and it all worked out and the weather held. Commissioner Theadore asked Mr. Ward if they had a hard time hiring staffing to which Mr. Ward answered that they offered everyone that applied a position. Mr. Ward further stated that they have something similar to a junior counselor program. They use community service hours for the sports camp programs.

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the Yankee/Red Sox trip is sold out. He also noted that they are offering outside pickleball programs. There was some discussion on how to reserve the courts online through the RecDesk website. Vice Chairman McKernan asked about

the tennis court windscreens and Mr. Ward replied that he is going through the process of getting them. Mr. Ward noted that they have started fall flag football registrations.

VII. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

According to Mr. Ward, this account is right on target. This is the last month of the fiscal year. He noted for the next budget year, they added to the Utilities line-item. It will be \$6500 compared to the current \$5500.

b. Special Activity -21100

Mr. Ward stated that the total revenue in this account is \$258,850 and the total expenses is \$189,750 with a net revenue over expenditures of \$69,099. The cash balance is \$234,147. Mr. Ward stated that they will be spending down some of the cash balance on the windscreens, on the cracks at the Spellman Park basketball courts and on the Borough basketball project.

Mr. Ward stated that they had tremendous summer program registration numbers.

Vice Chairman McKernan asked about the condition of the turf field. Mr. Ward stated that the school is in charge of the maintenance of the turf field but he did note that it is still in good shape at 10 years old. Mr. Ward is not sure if Recreation is "obligated" to pay for repairs or it's replacement, however, Recreation would support the project. Chairman Crowley noted that the Town put away money for this purpose at one point. There was some further discussion on the turf field.

c. Disc Golf Fund -21102

Mr. Ward did not have any updated information since the last meeting, however, he noted that there has not been much change since the last report was distributed to the Recreation Commission. It is being used a lot and all the tee boxes have been put in. Mr. Ward will begin to look into installing the additional 9 holes. This course draws people in from all over the region.

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

VIII. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley stated that the Boathouse project is moving along. They had a meeting with Planning & Zoning. They still need to raise money for the boat house. The Town has applied for a \$585,000 grant and they should know by the fall if they receive it. Chairman Crowley commented that they have a good plan in place.

IX. Old Business

Chairman Crowley commented that they looked at the cracks in the basketball courts with Public Works to try to determine the cause of the cracks. There has been no definite answer. It is

unknown when the courts were put in and they do not have the original plans. The cracks need to be fixed before the fall and the dedication ceremony.

Chairman Crowley noted that he receives numerous compliments on the whole Spellman Park complex.

X. New Business

XI. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:53 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Notes: The Recreation Commission does not meet in July or August
Next scheduled meeting is September 25, 2023**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Michael Crowley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman