

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Monday, November 22, 2021 at 6:00 PM  
SPS District Office – Board Room  
40 Field Street, Pawcatuck**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Chairman C. Michael Crowley & Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak  
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Jennifer Norcross & Jeff Moore  
Alternate Ben Kepple  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward

**Absent:** Commissioners Larry Theadore & Stephanie Hartell

**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**

Paulla Solar

Ms. Solar informed the Recreation Commission that an idea came to her around Veteran's Day that there should be an American flag in the vicinity of the multipurpose field. There was some discussion on where to place the flag, who would be responsible for raising and lowering the flag and that it would need to be lit. The Recreation Commission agreed to keep this in mind and there was no opposition to the request.

**III. Secretary's Report**

**a. Approval of minutes from Oct 2021 Commission meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the Special Meeting, October 25, 2021 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

**IV. Recreation Administrator's Report**

**Fall & Winter Program Update**

Mr. Ward stated that he is pleased to inform the Recreation Commission that Recreation will be able to use the schools this winter, however, they will not be able to have non-residents in the programs. Also, the children need to be kept in the respective schools that they attend. Mr. Ward noted that 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades are the biggest age group and they and any other multi-school program can play at the SPS District Office. There was some discussion on scheduling and janitor fees.

Mr. Ward is looking at a winter hiking club at West Vine. He further noted that, last year, there was a very well received ice skating program but prices have since gone up.

**V. Finance Reports**

**a. General Fund -10173**

According to Mr. Ward, all the accounts are on target and he will be spending down the money in the Equipment and Trophies line item.

**b. Special Activity -21100**

Mr. Ward noted that the cash balance in the Special Activity ~ 21100 Account is \$70,147.05. He further noted that the net revenue over expenditures is normally upside down this time of year. He has started a year end finance report based on the calendar year and will provide a copy to the Recreation Commission when it is complete.

**VI. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commission that the Boathouse project is moving along but it will still be a while.

Chairman Crowley commented that he has been thinking about the Town-owned space in the Stonington Borough by the Town Dock (site of the rejected "dog park"). He feels that this is a beautiful spot that sees zero activity and he would like to better utilize this area. Mr. Ward suggested making it a more park-like setting. Chairman Crowley stated that it is something to think about and he will reach out to the First Selectmen's Office. Commissioner Norcross commented that she does see people use the area and it might be a nice place for a yoga class or passive recreation. Vice Chairman Prachniak suggested a picnic area at that location.

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

**VIII. Old Business**

**a. Disc Golf**

Mr. Ward stated that they have sold the Title Sponsor to Matt Cunningham, the owner of Far Flung, a company that designs disc golf courses. Two of the four Founding Sponsors have been sold to Mystic Knotwork and First Financial in Westerly. They have four or five legacy Sponsors. The Class of 1998 and the Class of 1995 have purchased a Legacy Sponsorship. Mr. Ward commented that he still needs help finding sponsors and asked the Recreation Commission for assistance. Company logos will be carved into a permanent sign for all sponsors other than Tee Sponsors which are only for the season. Mr. Ward has an idea mapped out for the holes and he noted that the Town will help with the clearing.

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the work at the tennis courts is still on pause, they are waiting until spring to go out to bid.

Commissioner Moore made a suggestion to add Corn Hole Leagues in the summer for youths and adults.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner McKernan at 6:30 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Notes:**

**a. Next meeting: 6:00 pm, January 24, 2021 at SPS District Offices**  
**We do not meet in December**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
C. Michael Crowley, Chairman