

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:00 PM
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley & Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak
Commissioners Jennifer Norcross, Joe Ciriello, Joe McKernan & Larry Theadore
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Recreation Coordinator Pete Christina

Absent: Commissioner Jeff Moore

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

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission
None.

II. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from January 2020 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Theadore to approve the January 27, 2020 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

According to Mr. Ward, the General Fund is on target with the exception of the Utilities line item. The lights were not turned on at night during the Triple E curfew, therefore, some money was saved in that line item. Mr. Ward is looking to write off some of the upgrades to the lighting with the leftover money in the Utilities line item. He further noted that the lights at the basketball courts have been upgraded.

Mr. Christina will be attending the NFL Flag Football conference. He is looking to be certified by the National Alliance for Youth Sports as a Youth Sports Administrator. This funding will come from the Professional Association line item.

b. Special Activity -21100

The Special Activity account has \$82,836 which is up 10% from last year. The largest growth was in the flag football program. The Como/Rec Basketball program has also grown. Mr. Ward

noted that Recreation is down slightly year to date in the soccer program. Mr. Ward will be running a week long soccer camp during spring vacation week.

Vice Chairman Prachniak questioned why the Recreation Trips Expense line item is showing \$5855 to which Mr. Ward replied that not all the bus trip registrations have come in yet and those trips have to be paid in advance.

c. Proposed 20/21 Budget

Mr. Ward provided the Recreation Commission with the proposed 2020/2021 budget. All Recreation's presentations were well received. He highlighted the fact that Recreation is asking to hire a third Recreation staff member. This item was well received when it was presented to the Board of Finance due to the upward trend in Recreation's revenue. Mr. Ward stated that Recreation has requested to completely replace the tennis courts through CIP. Recreation will put in for \$300,000 and the School Department will put in for \$300,000 over a period of two years for a total of \$600,000 to replace the tennis courts.

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to accept the finance reports as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

Mr. Ward congratulated Mr. Christina for wrapping up a fantastic flag football program. All feedback has been positive. The indoor flag program has grown from 75 participants when it first started to approximately 300 participants this year.

V. Chairman's Report

According to Chairman Crowley, they are still waiting on funding from the State.

VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report

The following items will be brought to Ad-hoc:

1. Initiating a plan to address Triple E before it becomes a problem this year. Mr. Ward stated that there will be a meeting with the Regional Recreation Directors and a representative from the State has been invited to discuss this issue. It is necessary to try to get ahead of the curve, according to Mr. Ward. There was some additional discussion about spraying.

2. The trails at Spellman Park.

3. Improving the facility at east pavilion.

Mr. Ward will reach out to the Ad-hoc Committee to set up a meeting.

VII. Old Business

a. Pawcatuck Middle School

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that they are slowly getting Recreation programs started at this location.

b. Mystic River Park

Commissioner Ciriello stressed the importance of setting up an MOU between the Town and Friends of Stonington Crew. A lot of public money has gone into this site and Commissioner Ciriello feels it should be available to the public. Mr. Ward stated that Recreation would do programming around the Stonington Crew schedule and events. Chairman Crowley noted that parking is still an issue and there still is a lot to do and discussions are still ongoing.

c. MOU – School/Rec/Public Works

Mr. Ward addressed this item at last month's meeting. Originally, Recreation would have had to pay for the use of the school's gymnasiums, however, now that the Town will be taking over the maintenance for all the fields (with exception to the turf field), the fees should be waived. Mr. Ward noted that Town highway will be asking for two new hires to assist with the field maintenance. The baseball field will also be maintained by Town Highway; however, the School Department may have to start off maintaining the field until the budget is passed and the new fiscal year begins in July.

d. Tennis Courts

Mr. Ward thinks that some of the tennis courts will be closed. He reached out to the company that will be doing the repairs but they will not be able to start work until the weather is better. The high school tennis season starts mid-March.

e. Borough Playground Unit

This is also on hold until the weather is better. Mr. Ward thinks it will be installed mid-March.

f. Basketball Courts

According to Mr. Ward, the LED lights have been installed at the basketball courts. In order for them to turn on, it needs to be dark enough and there needs to be motion on the court. They are on a timer and will flicker as a warning before they go off. The new lights will save money.

VIII. New Business

Ms. Holland will not be organizing the golf tournament this year. Once someone is assigned to this event, Mr. Ward will have them address the Recreation Commission about the event.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:47 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ciriello, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

Next meeting: March 23, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Michael Crowley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully Submitted,".

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman