

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
REGULAR MEETING - VIRTUAL
Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:00 PM**

**Dial: 1-408-418-9388
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Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley & Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak
Commissioners Jennifer Norcross, Jeff Moore & Larry Theadore
Alternates Ben Kepple & Stephanie Hartell
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Recreation Coordinator Pete Christina
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore

Absent: Commissioners Joe McKernan & Joe Ciriello

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

A motion was made by Chairman Crowley to add the two alternates, Ben Kepple and Stephanie Hartell, to this meeting. All in favor, motion approved.

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

None.

II. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from Jan 2021 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commission Norcross to approve the Regular Meeting January 25, 2021 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

Note: Monthly meeting scheduled for February was canceled.

III. Finance Reports

- a. General Fund -10173**
- b. Special Activity -21100**

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commissioners that it is very tough to compare numbers to last year. He will try to put together a report to show the programs that did run and their expenses. Programs are anticipated to begin in April. The HIKE Stonington program is running but this is a free program. There was some revenue and expenses from the Flag Football program. There was some discussion about how it will be difficult to show comparable revenue and expenses. Mr. Christina commented that there are programs scheduled to run so there is some revenue already coming in.

Mr. Ward will report on the actual number of participants in the programs instead of the revenue. Director Theodore noted that Recreation had to scale back due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The General Fund -10173 account is on target according to Mr. Ward. He does need to move some money into the Utilities line item. He noted that he will be spending down the Consumable Supplies line item. Mr. Ward commented that Director Theodore did a great job in front of the Board of Finance in presenting Recreation's budget.

He informed the Recreation Commission that there is a positive cash balance of approximately \$50,000 in the Special Activity -21100 account.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to accept the finance reports as presented. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Prachniak, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report
COVID-19 Update
Spring & Summer Program Report

Mr. Ward sent out the Spring/Summer Brochure. If all the programs are able to run, this will be a very busy season. So far, they have had a good response. They are at the capacity of fifty for the Summer Camp and have sold out for the Flag Tournament. Tennis camp starts in May and the first session is sold out with sixteen total participants. They are offering a mini outdoor Como Basketball program. The youth soccer and lacrosse clubs are seeing higher than normal numbers. Adult exercise has also seen an increase in numbers and the program is running in the black. They will be transitioning one of the three dates inside at St. Michael's. According to Mr. Ward, they will not be running the Yankee/Red Sox outing. The buses are at 50% capacity and Mr. Ward would have to commit to two buses. There was further discussion about the number of participants that would have been necessary and additional cuts to the event at the stadium due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Mr. Ward stated that they are not able to run the safe boating course yet.

The men's softball numbers were down a little. They were unable to run a flag football championship due to the fact that some of the participants were in quarantine due to Covid-19.

Director Theodore noted that the finance report provided to the Commissioners does not reflect what is coming soon. She further stated that Mr. Ward and Mr. Christina have been very busy and there will be better numbers in the spring.

Vice Chairman Prachniak asked about number of participants in the Summer Camp Program. Mr. Ward answered that they usually have 130 total participants. Usually, 100 participants are full day. This year, they have 60 participants registered. Groups of 20 are allowed (including the counselors). There is room for only 60 people under the pavilions in the event of inclement weather. Mr. Ward needs to have approval to use the school building if he intends to increase the number of participants.

Chairman Crowley asked if the Recreation Commission can resume meetings in the Human Services building going forward. Director Theodore noted that the meeting room has been used for appointments with the public. The goal is to have in-person meetings and she is hoping they can resume at the pavilion for the April meeting. She suggested possibly having a virtual component

along with an in-person meeting. Chairman Crowley commented that Mr. Ward and Mr. Christina have been doing a great job and that we need to keep moving forward.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Prachniak to accept the Recreation Administrator's Report as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley commented that the boathouse project is moving along. They are still waiting for the money from the State which could be available in May or June.

VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report

a. Tennis Courts

Mr. Ward included the notes from the Design Meeting for the tennis court project in the Recreation Commissioners packets. It included notes on the scope of the project and the schedule. The estimate for the project came back at \$640,000 which is \$40,000 more than the quote from three years ago. Recreation was fully funded for the \$640,000. This estimate includes the lights, ADA accessibility, and the twelve-foot fence. They are considering adding a pickleball court. The US Tennis Association may contribute towards the pickleball court. This attracts children under the age of ten.

According to Mr. Ward, they will be taking soil samples this week. They are looking to go through the design in the next several weeks. The start date for the project is looking to be late summer, early fall and should be complete by October. It is all going great so far with an A-level committee working on the project. This project will not be cut and they will be granted the additional \$40,000 with no effect on the following fiscal year budget.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Ward reminded that they are still working on the project to connect the trails at Spellman Park. Mr. Christina commented that a path has been mapped out but not cleared yet to Moss Park. There will be an Inland Wetlands meeting this weekend to look at the entire area. They need the approvals from Inland Wetlands and they will also need right of ways from one or two properties. Public Works will be helping with the project. Mr. Ward thanked AJ Massengale for helping with the cleanup in Spellman Park and for showing interest in this project. Mr. Ward thinks this project will move along quickly.

VIII. New Business

Mr. Christina informed the Recreation Commission that they are looking to put in a nine-hole disc golf course between the pavilions. They will start off building a three-hole course then gauge the interest before they build more. Mr. Christina has ordered some goals. They will look into raising funds to construct the course. They have a design for the first three holes and will be working with Public Works to clear the area. There should be room to have as many had eighteen holes. Mohegan Park just opened a course. Mr. Ward commented that there is a growing number of people playing this game. He is hoping that once they build the three-hole course, he will be able to

get sponsors to add more holes. There was some discussion on the game of disk golf and the course.

Mr. Ward believes that, later this summer and going into fall, they will be past Covid-19 restrictions and go right into issues with EEE.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Prachniak at 6:55 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

Next meeting: April 26, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman