

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, May 24, 2021 at 6:00 PM
Spellman Park (behind Stonington High School)
West Pavillon**

Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Commissioners Commissioner Joe Ciriello & Larry Theadore

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

None.

II. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from April 2021 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the Regular Meeting April 26, 2021 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports

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

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the Special Activity 21100 account has a total revenue of \$129,902 and total expense of \$97,080 for a net gain of \$32,821. He noted that since they did not run the Summer Camp program last year there were no Summer Camp expenses, so the numbers are deceiving. Also, this year the Summer Camp will not have as much revenue as past years since participant numbers will be lower than usual. Mr. Ward expects approximately \$100,000 in Summer Camp revenue compared to approximately \$150,000 in revenue in past years. He plans on keeping camp participants spread out so the entire program does not need to shut down in case of a Covid-19 outbreak. According to Mr. Ward, 99% of the camp will be held outside, however, they will be using the school cafeteria and commons room. Basketball Camp will also be using the school building.

Mr. Ward noted that the new fiscal year begins in July.

There was some discussion about the children having to wear masks. Mr. Ward stated that they will not be required to wear masks outside. He believes that 100% of the camp staff will be vaccinated, however, he can not make it a requirement since it was not noted as required in the job description.

Mr. Ward stated that in the General Fund 10173 account all the negative numbers will be cleaned up and balanced to zero before the end of the fiscal year. This account looks to be on target.

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

**IV. Venue Change for 2021 Commission Meetings
Discussion & Action Required**

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commissioners that every time there is a change to the venue for this meeting, there is a process that needs to be gone through to cancel the regular meeting and set up a special meeting. In order to circumvent this process, Mr. Ward was asked to have the Recreation Commission vote on a venue change for the remainder of 2021. This meeting is normally held in the Human Services Community Meeting Room, however, this room is being utilized by Human Services. It was discussed that for the months of June and September, the Recreation Commission can meet outdoors at the West Pavilion and then indoors for the months of October and November at a location to be determined. Note: the Recreation Commission does not meet in the months of July, August and December. Indoor meeting places were discussed and will be voted on at a later meeting unless the Human Services Community Room, the regular location, becomes available.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to schedule the June 28, 2021 and September 27, 2021 Recreation Commission meetings at West Pavilion in Spellman Park at 6 p.m. and the October 25, 2021 and November 22, 2021 meetings at a location to be determined at 6 p.m. No meetings July, August and December. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

**V. Recreation Administrator's Report
COVID-19 Update
Spring Program Update
Summer Camp Plans**

According to Mr. Ward, the spring programs are running at capacity, basketball has wrapped up and was very successful. Tennis is in full swing. Everything has been running smoothly. Mr. Ward commented that people on the sidelines have been required to wear masks. Children participants have been allowed to remove their masks for the last two weeks. Mr. Ward noted that there has been a mixed reception on the wearing of masks. He further noted that Recreation did not have to shut down any program due to a Covid-19 outbreak and no teams were asked to quarantine. Everything has been going well.

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that there will be a full offering of programs this summer: Track & Field, Soccer Camp, summer training for Field Hockey, Boys & Girls Soccer, Open Shoot Basketball, four weeks of Horse Riding Camp at Horses Healing Humans, an Open Tennis League and they plan to hold the 5K Road Race in late August.

VI. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commission that Commissioner Ciriello has not been well and he asked everyone to keep him in their prayers.

Chairman Crowley noted that the Boathouse project is still ongoing. The State has not awarded the grant money yet.

Chairman Crowley spoke to a complement he received about the condition of the fields.

Commissioner Norcross commented that she overheard officials at a lacrosse game in regard to the condition of the turf field. It is starting to fail. She suggests to keep this in mind. Mr. Ward noted that there is money in CIP to replace the turf field. There was some further discussion on the age and maintenance of the turf field.

VII. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report

a. Tennis Courts

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that they have drilled the test holes at the tennis courts. There were no immediate concerns. This project is progressing. Mr. Ward noted that he is trying to arrange a presentation for the June Recreation Commission meeting. The project is on target to begin the build in the fall.

VIII. Old Business

a. Spellman Park Trails

Mr. Ward commented that the naming of Tom McCoy Trail has been forwarded to the First Selectman. He further noted that a boy scout approached him about carving out a new trail one mile long. This project is moving along.

Mr. Ward stated that he asked the Connecticut Parks & Recreation Association if there are protocols for naming trails, buildings, etc. Mr. Ward was given the guidelines and he is working with the First Selectman's Office to make a Town policy. Commissioner Norcross asked when Mr. Ward thought the dedication ceremony would be for the Tom McCoy Trail? Mr. Ward stated that he was unsure. Commissioner Norcross suggested the beginning of the Cross-Country season would be a fitting time. Mr. Ward stated that will suggest this to the First Selectman.

b. Disc Golf

Mr. Ward commented that he has finalized plans to do fundraising for this project. So far there has been a favorable response. The cost for all the materials and clearing the area is approximately \$20,000. Any sponsorships will have plaque recognition. The first hole is in and it is located at East Pavilion.

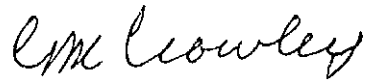
IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner McKernan at 6:37 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

- a. Next meeting: June 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm
- b. Commission does not meet in July & August

Respectfully Submitted,

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

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman