

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, June 24, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Commissioners Joe McKernan & Jeff Moore

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

According to Mr. Ward, Paul deCastro sent him an email in regard to the ongoing problem with dogs on the fields. There was discussion regarding the signage that is already in place and the boundaries of the areas that are off limits to animals. All playgrounds and inside the athletic field fences are no dogs allowed, however, Mr. Ward stated that there are currently no town-wide ordinances for the police to enforce. Owners have to be in control of their animals, they do not necessarily have to have them on a leash.

The Recreation Commissioners commented on their experiences in regard to dogs at the fields. The immediate focus is to make it safe. Mr. Ward, with the Recreation Commission's support, will bring recommendations to the Board of Selectmen in regard to dogs on Town fields and playgrounds and the possibility of an enforceable ordinance. If necessary, Mr. Ward is open to suggestions about creating a dog park.

II. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from April Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the April 22, 2019 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

According to Mr. Ward, the General Fund 10173 is looking good.

b. Special Activity -21100

According to Mr. Ward, the Special Activity 2100 account has \$195,768 in revenue which is an increase from last year. They are continuing to add programs and participants.

The end of June marks the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Ward highlighted a few programs that are growing including summer camp and tennis.

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

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Summer Program Report

Mr. Ward stated that it has been a busy spring with 478 participants and \$4800 revenue generated. Summer programs have 739 participants registered and will generate about \$135,000 in revenue. There are 55 children enrolled in a week-long basketball program. The HOOP Academy is running for 3rd to 8th graders. They added a 1st to 2nd grade program and already have 30 participants. The Middle School Summer Camp sold out.

Mr. Ward discussed with the Recreation Commissioners the space that Recreation would like to use at the Pawcatuck Middle School, which will be in addition to Recreation's current use of the elementary schools.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commissioners that the West Broad Street School playground will be signed, "Open from Daylight to Dusk." They are waiting for the CIRMA report before Recreation takes over the playground.

Chairman Crowley stated that Barbara McKrell will have soccer field scoreboard installed.

Chairman Crowley was happy to report that Mr. Ward's meeting with Candy Palmer in regard to the trails in the newly acquired land at Spellman Park went really well. She has plans that were created by the boy scouts that can be utilized in the wetland areas. Mr. Ward is looking into costs and gathering volunteers. He will also involve Planning and Zoning to obtain easements in certain areas to connect the trails to Moss Park. Mr. Ward will bring the initial costs to the Ad-hoc Committee.

VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 7:05 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ciriello, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

No meetings in July & August – Summer break

Next meeting: September 23 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Michael Crowley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman