

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, November 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM  
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley  
Commissioners Jennifer Norcross, Joe McKernan, Larry Theadore, Jeff Moore & Joe Ciriello  
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore

Absent: Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward

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

**I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission**

None.

**II. Secretary's Report**

**a. Approval of minutes from October Commission meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Theadore to approve the October 28, 2019 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**

**b. Special Activity -21100**

Director Theodore informed the Recreation Commission that the Summer Camp program is still making the numbers look off balance, otherwise, everything is on track. She noted that they bought some new equipment and official shirts for flag football which is reflected in the expenses. There are no issues with any of the expenses.

According to Director Theodore, the Parts & Labor line item in the General Fund was negative \$2500. This was due to some maintenance and upkeep down at the fields, for instance, the water fountain needed repair. That amount was moved to Special Activities and will be charged off to Program Revenue instead. She also noted that, by the time this Commission meets next, they will be planning for the Summer Camp program.

Commissioner Theadore questioned why there is a negative amount in Special Activities under Recreation Trips to which Director Theodore replied that was due to a refund.

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

#### **IV. Recreation Administrator's Report**

Director Theodore covered the Recreation Administrator's Report in Mr. Ward's absence. She will be contacting Mr. Christina in regard to winterizing the bathrooms and other necessary areas at Spellman Park at Chairman Crowley's request. The tennis court wind screens were damaged since they were not removed at the end of the season. Chairman Crowley would like Recreation to take over putting up and taking down the wind screens.

It was a great year for field maintenance. Commissioner Norcross commented that the turf field is also in good shape. Chairman Crowley would like to see the actual cost to replace the turf field. He wants to make sure enough money is set aside when the time comes to replace it. Since it has been maintained so well, it may last longer than the ten-year life span.

Director Theodore informed the Recreation Commission that there are over 200 participants for flag football. There are been no complaints about the program and all the participants get field time. She noted that there are many volunteers that help with the flag football program. Director Theodore stated that open gym basketball has begun as well as fencing and COMO/Rec basketball has close to 200 people registered.

#### **V. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commission that the Boathouse project will be moving forward. There will be a meeting next Monday and also a public hearing on the project in December.

#### **VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report**

##### **a. Tennis Courts**

According to Director Theodore, they got the bid waiver for the tennis court repairs. Repairs will be done when the weather breaks. The Town Engineer will be meeting with Mr. Ward to discuss what is going on beneath the surface of the courts.

Director Theodore noted that they put in a CIP request for \$300,000 over two fiscal years in order to replace the tennis courts along with the fencing and lighting. The Board of Education will put in an additional \$300,000 over two fiscal years. Director Theodore put the project in at a C level, however, it was elevated to a B level project so chances look good that this CIP request will be approved.

##### **b. Borough Playground Unit**

Director Theodore explained that they received the bid waiver for this project but it will have to wait to be installed until spring due to the weather.

Chairman Crowley asked about the status of the footbridge on the trails at Spellman Park. Director Theodore commented that, due to the EEE curfew, this project was put on hold. They will now need

to wait until better weather to complete it in the spring. Chairman Crowley requested that the trails stay on the agenda under Ad-hoc.

Chairman Crowley asked the Stonington High School Civic students if they have any questions or comments and one student informed the Recreation Commission that there are issues with the maintenance of the baseball field. The Recreation Commissioners explained that the baseball field is the only field that Recreation does not oversee. It is cared for by the School Department. Chairman Crowley was disappointed to hear these comments and strongly encouraged the student to notify the School Department and the Athletic Department in order to bring attention to and resolve this issue.

**VII. Old Business**

Director Theodore informed the Recreation Commission that the Dog Policy at Town Parks was approved by the Board of Selectmen. The School Department also adopted the same policy. According to Director Theodore, there has been no push back so far. Commissioner Norcross suggested putting the policy up on Facebook and Instagram prior to the Thanksgiving Day game. She was glad to hear that the policy is now in place so there will be something behind the No Dogs signs to enforce.

**VIII. New Business**

Director Theodore noted that the New Events magazine will be going out soon to advertise new programs.

Commissioner McKernan questioned if Recreation will be bringing East Pavilion up to the same standards as West Pavilion. Chairman Crowley noted that East Pavilion could be dressed up as well. He asked Director Theodore to have Mr. Ward add East Pavilion to Ad-hoc.


**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

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

**Notes:**

**Next meeting: January 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman