

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2018 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 Program Coordinator Pete Christina

Absent: Commissioner Jeff Moore

Chairman Michael Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

None.

II. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from Nov 2017 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the Nov 27, 2017 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports – Month Ending December, 2017

a. General Fund -10173

b. Special Activity -21100

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the total revenue in the Special Activity 21100 account, month ending December 2017, is \$63,969.10 and the total expenses are \$148,916.46. He noted that this account will run in the red until the end of the fiscal year due to paying for the resurfacing of the tennis courts, yet, revenue is up 26% from last year. There have also been expenses for renting the Mystic Indoor Sports facility and for summer camp, however, registration fees will begin to come in and cover those expenses. There was some discussion on the Recreation Cash Balance. Mr. Ward will provide a report on all the programs at the end of this quarter. Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward if he could tell the Commission how much extra Recreation has each year. Mr. Ward will have those numbers when the 2017 year closes.

As for the General Fund 10173 account, Mr. Ward noted that the Recreation Program Coordinators salary was budgeted for the entire fiscal year and since that position was not

filled at the start of the fiscal year he is working with finance in order to use that money towards other programs.

Mr. Ward provided the Commission with a detailed report on the Field Usage Fees. There is a total deposit of \$24,335.28 from all the field rentals. Out of this deposit, he has paid for field supervisors to watch the field during certain events. Right now, the balance Recreation would be able to give to the Town towards the replacement of the artificial turf field is \$22,625.28. Commissioner Ciriello noted that this gives the Commission a good depiction about how the field usage fees work. At this point in time, Mr. Ward has been told that the field has been holding up well but he will look into when it will need replacing.

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. Recreation Administrator's Report

Mr. Ward asked Mr. Christina to give an update on the basketball program that Recreation recently took over from the COMO. Mr. Christina stated that the program is going really well. There are 55 girls and 120 boys participating with a total of 21 teams. He further informed the Commission on how the program is run with the board officials, the ten recently graduated students that also referee and the age groups of the participants. There was some discussion on how much the referees are paid. Commissioner Ciriello stated that he is very proud of this league.

Mr. Ward noted that Mr. Christina has been a great asset to his department.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley went over a few projects with the Commission. He has arranged with Tom Curioso to put in two horseshoe pits. Chairman Crowley stated that Barbara McKrell is also interested in getting a tarp to cover the softball infield. Chairman Crowley also stated that he spoke with First Selectman Simmons and was informed that there may not be enough money in the CIP budget for the roads. He also discussed his interest in the Pawcatuck Middle School. There was further discussion on how the gym, fields and classroom space could be utilized by Recreation. This would be a great opportunity for Recreation. Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward to start a plan for the space.

Chairman Crowley commented that the list discussed at the Ad-hoc Committee meeting on January 16, 2018 was a great list of projects. Mr. Ward also noted that he has a list of completed projects that he can share with the Commission.

VI. Facilities ad-hoc committee

Mr. Ward highlighted several items from the January 16, 2018 Ad-hoc Committee meeting for the Recreation Commission. He pointed out that the CIRMA Audit project to define the playground boundaries will be completed this spring. This will be funded by a CIP grant. There was some discussion about using CIP for big budget items. The next item discussed was that Recreation is going ahead on their own to redo the fire pits at the West Pavilion. The project will cost approximately \$3500 and there was some discussion about working

with the fire department to create and post a set of rules and policies. Mr. Ward commented on whether Recreation will replace the slide that was removed or add on to the existing playscape at Haley Park. He is looking into pricing on this item. Mr. Ward also noted that they would like to add additional parking spaces at Spellman Park. Chairman Crowley advised that there is approximately \$30,000 of funding left in the field project bond. Mr. Ward expressed the need for a new scoreboard at Piver Field. He will be looking into the cost for a replacement. Mr. Ward also discussed the plans for the Stonington Village Improvement Association's plans at the Borough Playground (see below: agenda item VI. Facilities ad-hoc committee b. Intergenerational Playground Equipment – Borough). Finally, Mr. Ward informed the Commission that he will price out the Pavilion area upgrades.

There was some additional discussion about other items on the projects list such as a splash pad, timer for the tennis court lights, the roof on the pavilions, the tarp for the softball infield and exploring a more permanent structure for the porta johns.

Chairman Crowley noted that this is a great list to improve the facility. Vice Chairman Prachniak stated that it would be beneficial to survey the users of the facilities to see what the public would like to see improved.

a. Approval of min from meeting 1/16/18

Mike Crowley, Frank Prachniak, Joe Ciriello, Richard Ward, and Pete Christina were all present at the Jan. 16, 2018 Facilities Ad-hoc Committee meeting. There were several misspellings of the word "consensus" that needs to be corrected.

A motion was made by M. Crowley to approve the Jan. 16, 2018 Facilities Ad-hoc Committee's meeting minutes with the correction of "conscience" changed to "consensus" in several locations. Motion seconded by F. Prachniak, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Intergenerational Playground Equipment - Borough

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the Stonington Village Improvement Association is planning on installing four or five different exercise equipment units at the Borough Playground. The cost for the equipment is approximately \$6,000 and another \$4,000 for installation. The Stonington Village Improvement Association is coving all costs. The equipment is safe and acceptable to have within the playground. It is intergenerational equipment. Commissioner Ciriello noted that this was a well-presented package and Recreation could possibly incorporate this site in Recreation's Hike Stonington program. Mr. Ward will get the final plans from the Stonington Village Improvement Association and relay it to the Ad-hoc committee.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the rocker and spinner was removed from the Borough Playground and that the Stonington Village Improvement Association will pay for the replacement costs.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

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

Notes:

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2018.

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