

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2017 at 6:00 PM
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley & Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak
Commissioners Jennifer Norcross, Joe McKernan, Larry Theodore, & Joe Ciriello
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore
Stonington Community Center Representative Kelsey Haack

Absent: Commissioner Jeff Moore

Chairman Michael Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Chairman Crowley asked for a moment of silence in memory of Jim Ballato.

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission
None

II. Secretary's Report – Approval of minutes from November, 2016

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to approve the November 28, 2016 Secretary's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Prachniak, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports – Month Ending December 2016

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

Mr. Ward provided the Commissioners with program summaries. He also gave the Commissioners an overview of the Recreation Activity Fund. The total revenue for a the 6-month period July 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 was \$50,968. Last year for the same period it was \$41,994 and the year before it was \$21,133. This is a 141% growth over the last two years. Mr. Ward is looking into providing numbers based on the calendar year as well as the fiscal year. The net revenue over expenditures is showing negative because the revenue for Summer Camp is not in yet. Chairman Crowley noted that he likes to see the numbers broken down by program. The Fall programs served a total of 648 participants; 175 adults, 231 youths and 242 family. Mr. Ward explained that there is some overlap of programs, for example the Hike Stonington program runs from spring until fall, but the majority of the Fall 2016 programs are from September to December.

The adult exercise program is still running at a loss. There was some discussion about possibly holding classes at the new schools when they are built or even holding classes at human services. It may be possible to add more classes to help cover the expenses by incorporating evening classes and hold them at the new schools when they are completed. Another option may be to check with Renegade in Pawcatuck to see if they would be open to holding classes at their facility. The same core group attends the Zumba and baby boomer's classes. There are 16 participants in Zumba and 7

In the baby boomers class. Chairman Crowley does not want to cut anyone out and it seems that this core group would like to stay within their group. Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward to check with Renegade to see if they could fit the adult exercise programs in at that facility.

The numbers for the youth programs look good. Mr. Ward stated there will be some additional expenses with the high school basketball rec. and flag football programs.

Under family programs, there were 10 participants that went to the Pats vs. Jets game. There are good numbers with the boating safety course which is offered at \$10 per person.

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

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Fall 2016 Program Report

b. Mystic Indoor Sports Arena

Going forward, Mr. Ward will report on each program on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Ward reported that the programming at the Mystic Indoor Sports Arena is looking good. There were 248 participants signed up for indoor flag football and soccer. Both age groups for indoor flag football were sold out. There is also a preschool aged ball program running in the Mystic Indoor Sports Arena as well. Mr. Ward could not be more pleased with the success of this programming.

V. Chairman's Report

See Item New Business below for comments from Chairman Crowley.

VI. Facilities ad-hoc committee

a. Patching and repair of Tennis courts – action item

Mr. Ward heard back from Hinding Tennis Courts about patching all the existing cracks, touch-ups and putting a coat of green color to match the existing courts. This process needs to be done sooner rather than later. Chairman Crowley would like to have at least two professionals look at the courts and give recommendations. There was some discussion about the 2012 installation of the mesh on the courts. This was guaranteed for 3 years, however, it has lasted 5 years. Commissioner Ciriello gave his opinion about the quote and explained the repair process to the Commission. The quote from Hinding is for \$37,000 to repair all 6 courts. Commissioner Ciriello noted that this process is worth the money because it would cost around \$120,000 to replace just one court. He was impressed with the detail in the quote. There was further discussion about the mesh/membrane used on the courts. Chairman Crowley would like Mr. Ward to check with Hinding about the mesh. He also asked if the whole court has to be painted. Mr. Ward had asked that question and Hinding did not feel it is necessary.

Commissioner Ciriello would like Mr. Ward to find out from Hinding if they are going to resurface the entire court and the cost for doing so. Also, will all the lines be repainted or just the ones that cross the patches. Mr. Ward believes that the painting and touch ups will be done only on the repairs and they will color match the paint instead of having to repaint the entire court.

Chairman Crowley would like Mr. Ward to see how often this process will need to be done and the costs so as to make sure there is enough allotted in the budget to cover these reoccurring expenses. At this time, he instructed Mr. Ward to find out the answers to the Commission's questions and check Hinding's references. He noted that the repairs would more than likely have to wait until after the tennis season.

No action.

b. Additional security cameras at Spellman Park – action item

The existing cameras at Spellman Park have been a great asset so far and Mr. Ward is looking to have 3 more cameras installed. The Commission's main concern is to not duplicate coverage. Vice-Chair Prachniak would like to have the area covered by the high-density camera clarified. Is it necessary to have a high-density camera in that area? Mr. Ward stated that this particular camera will be able to narrow in on people's faces on the basketball courts which will help with identification.

Chairman Crowley would like to see that the Spellman Park area is covered in the best way possible. He would also like to check to see if it would cost the same for all 3 cameras to be high-density.

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward to arrange for the representative from the Wireless Design Group to attend this Commission's February meeting so the Commissioners can ask questions and get a better understanding of the camera coverage.

Tabled to next meeting.

As a side note, the Commission discussed the placement of the new batting cages. Commissioner Ciriello was opposed to putting them near the tennis courts because it interferes with concentration. It may be possible to put the cages in the ice skating rink area.

VII. Old Business

Commissioner Norcross gave an update on the softball scoreboard. The concrete pad has not been installed yet. She spoke with Bob Mitchell and was informed that the footing is not how it should be in order to install the scoreboard. Chairman Crowley will speak with Mr. VanRiley to try to get this project done. He would like it done before softball season if at all possible.

VIII. New Business

a. Jim Ballato

Chairman Crowley informed the Commission that First Selectman Rob Simmons put the flag at Town Hall at half-mast in honor of Jim Ballato. Chairman Crowley made the recommendation to name the field hockey field "The Jimmy Ballato Field Hockey Field." He suggested placing the name on a rock similar to the one for George Crouse at the tennis courts. The Commission as a whole agreed. Commissioner Theodore was asked to check with Mr. Ballato's family to see if they would agree to this as well. Chairman Crowley is looking to complete this in the spring and have a dedication ceremony.

Commissioner Theodore made a motion to name the field hockey field "The Jimmy Ballato Field Hockey Field," install a plaque at the site and have a dedication ceremony in honor of Jim Ballato. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

There was some additional discussion before the meeting was adjourned about the Mystic Boathouse. Commissioner Ciriello expressed some concerns with how the project came about and the funding process. The park at the Mystic Boathouse will more than likely be overseen by the Recreation Commission. Commissioner Ciriello foresees a lot of issues with the project, including parking issues at the site.

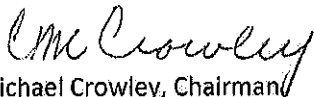
IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theodore at 7:16 pm. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKernan, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes: Facilities ad-hoc meeting/TBD second week of February

Next Regular Monthly meeting is scheduled for February 27 at 6:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman