

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, February 27, 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, Joe Ciriello & Jeff Moore
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward

Absent: Commissioner Larry Theodore

Chairman Michael Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

-Richard LaSaracina, Wireless Design Group RE: Security Cameras

Mr. Ward invited Mr. LaSaracina to answer any questions the Commission has about the proposal of adding three additional cameras in Spellman Park. Mr. LaSaracina informed the Commission that these cameras will focus on the athletic fields, the tennis courts, the open area near the concessions stand and the basketball courts. These cameras would be in addition to the three existing cameras that cover the parking lot to left field. The proposed camera coverage will show license plates on vehicles in the parking lot near the tennis court. The second camera will focus solely on the basketball courts to help with identifications. There isn't a 24-hour power source at the basketball courts so this dictates where this camera would need to be placed and that a high definition camera should be installed. Mr. LaSaracina is very confident in the second camera. The third camera will help in identifying faces on the courts as well and also show the lead in area towards the courts. A camera can also be installed at the softball field. This would cover the entire Spellman Field area.

One question that the Commission had was if any of the cameras captured the road behind the tennis courts. Mr. LaSaracina stated that you would be able to see the vehicles but would not be able to read license plates or be able to tell how many people are in the vehicle. Vice Chairman Prachniak asked Mr. LaSaracina about the coverage with the second camera. It seems that it does not provide the best coverage possible. Mr. LaSaracina pointed out that it is necessary to see faces on the basketball courts and a high definition camera is the best option. It does not have a large coverage area compared to the other two cameras but it will be able to provide a more detailed video which will help with identifications. Chairman Crowley asked would it be possible if all three cameras were high definition. Mr. LaSaracina noted that the coverage area would be cut in half if they were all high definition however it would provide good definition.

Chairman Crowley stated that if the Commission is going to install the cameras then all three cameras as stated in the proposal should be installed and also add in the camera at the softball field. He does not want to continually add in cameras one by one. Commissioner Ciriello noted that having the cameras is like taking out an insurance policy. He also likes the idea of adding the softball field camera and noted that the proposed coverage also includes covering an area that will be developed in the future. Mr. LaSaracina stated that if they had the benefit of a 24-hour power source the camera placement would be a little different however the focus is to spend the money

on the camera quality and using what is available on site to keep costs down. Mr. LaSaracina feels that these three cameras as proposed offer the best coverage. The only addition he would recommend is adding a camera on the softball field. There are several signs in Spellman Park noting that security cameras are in use which acts as a deterrent.

Chairman Crowley on behalf of the Commission and Mr. Ward thanked Mr. LaSaracina for his time and presentation.

II. Secretary's Report – Approval of minutes from January, 2017

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the January 23, 2017 Secretary's Report as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports – Month Ending January, 2017

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

Mr. Ward started a calendar finance report but it has raised some questions so he is still working on this before he brings it to the Commission. Next month he plans to have side by side comparisons with previous years available to show the Commission. He noted that there is \$50,606 in revenue but \$108,000 in expenses, this is still due to the fact that summer camp registration revenue has not come in yet.

Mr. Ward noted that there have been some new purchases showing in the Soccer Program expense line for two soccer goals at the new fields as well as the payment for using the Mystic Indoor Sports Arena. Chairman Crowley would still like to see the total appropriation from the town, salaries and program by program numbers and profit loss which would be more concise and easier for the Commission to understand. Mr. Ward stated that it would be easier to show this more on an accrual basis instead of a cash basis.

Mr. Ward noted that all the line items are on target, however, his only concern is with the utilities. He expects that he will go over on that line item but he has asked for \$4500 for utilities in the upcoming budget year. The utilities are for the lights in Spellman Park. They also included a second full time person to work in Recreation in the upcoming budget. Officials and instructors will be paid out of the individual program expense line. There has been a 3% increase in the Human Resources/Recreation Department as a whole from last year.

Commissioner Ciriello asked about the Field Usage Fees to which Mr. Ward answered that the \$5,628 in that line was generated by fee rentals charged to anyone not affiliated with the town.

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

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

- a. Updates on Mystic Indoor Sports Arena**

Mr. Ward gave a quick overview of the programming at the Mystic Indoor Sports Arena. He was able to add a winter Flag Football program and the Multi-Sport Blast program and tripled the Footsol Program. In the past, there were 45 participants in winter programs, this year there were

304 participants in total, 180 in Indoor Soccer, 100 in Flag Football and 25-35 in the Multi-Sport Blast. The revenue generated \$19,750 and the expenses were about \$19,000. Mr. Ward was very pleased with the response and it indicates that he will be able to do this again next year. It gave Mystic Indoor Sports Arena a lot of exposure. As a result, lacrosse would also like some indoor time at this facility. Mr. Ward had a 20 person wait list for flag football so he could have added more teams. He noted that he was at the maximum with the indoor soccer. Chairman Crowley was pleased with the outcome. Commissioner Ciriello believes this facility is a good resource. Mr. Ward noted that Mystic Indoor Sports Arena was less reluctant with Recreation running the programming.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley informed the Commission that the first meeting regarding the Mystic Boathouse was held and they are planning on having monthly meetings going forward. The Mystic Boathouse will be located on a small piece of property, approximately 1 acre between the old Kitchen Little site and Latitude 41. They are looking to build a boathouse and have a 30-car parking area. At this point, they are looking to hire a project manager. There is still a long way to go with this project.

Chairman Crowley will keep the Commission updated on the Mystic Boathouse's progress. It may be possible to have Recreation run some water programs out of this facility. This is something to look forward to.

Chairman Crowley notified the Commission that he had someone come down and look at the fireplaces. The estimate is between \$6,000 and \$8,000 and they can rebuild using the existing materials. Chairman Crowley also talked to Barbara McKrell about improvements to Spellman Park. The field needs to be cut and the area needs to be cleaned up. Town Highway will be able to help. Mr. Ward noted that the picnic area was rented out all last summer so it is very important to keep the area cleaned up.

VI. Facilities ad-hoc committee

VII. Old Business

a. Patching and repair of Tennis courts-action item

This is in regard to patching the cracks in the tennis courts, repainting the cracks then repainting the white lines. This will cost \$35,000 according to the quote from Hinding. Mr. Ward went back to Hinding after discussions with the Commission at last month's meeting to get a quote on repainting the entire courts. The cost for patching the cracks, applying three coats of paint and repainting the white lines would cost \$60,250. It would only be \$47,050 if only two coats are needed. Mr. Ward informed the Commission that this is only \$7,000 more than what was spent to redo the courts back in 2009. Hinding also guarantees the courts for 2 years and will come back and repair any cracks in that time frame. Commissioner Ciriello did some research on the best way to repair the courts and he determined that Hinding's procedure is the best way. Commissioner Ciriello stated that the courts need to be repainted and it is to be determined if all three coats will be necessary. Mr. Ward stated that there is enough money to do these repairs. There was some discussion about changing the color of the courts. This project will more than likely have to wait until after the upcoming tennis season.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion to hire Hinding to patch the cracks, repaint all 6 courts and repaint the white lines on the Tennis courts at Spellman Park. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Prachniak, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Additional security cameras at Spellman Park-action item

The Commission spoke briefly about the presentation made by Mr. LaSarcina at the beginning of this meeting. It will only cost \$1300 more to install a camera at the softball field as well as the 3 proposed cameras. Commissioner McKernan stated that the Commission should install all 4 cameras instead of going back and adding another and that this will give full coverage.

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to spend the \$8335.80 to install all four cameras as discussed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

VIII. New Business

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made Commissioner Moore at 7:09 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

OK MIKE CROWLEY

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman