

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

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley & Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Jennifer Norcross, Larry Theadore, Jeff Moore & Joe Ciriello
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina

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 2/25/19 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to approve the February 25, 2019 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Approval of minutes from 3/19/19 Ad-hoc Committee meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the March 19, 2019 Ad-hoc Committee 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 account is on target.

b. Special Activity -21100

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the Special Activity -21100 account is about the same as this time last year. The numbers for the Summer Playground are down a bit, however, Mr. Ward believes this is because they are not pushing Early Bird Registrations like they did last year. He is confident they will sell out. The expenses are all on target as well.

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

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Spring/Summer Program offering to date

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that there are some changes to Summer Playground this year. The federal grant that provides lunches to all participants will no longer be available since this program does not meet the criteria for the grant. The grant provided 150 meals a day for 30 days. Mr. Ward noted that he will be providing a cold lunch option that participants can buy into during the program. There was some discussion about children who receive free or reduced lunch during school. Mr. Ward noted that Recreation has scholarship money that may be used to help children in need of money for the new lunch plan.

Mr. Ward notified the Recreation Commission that there will be a new adult flag football league. He also stated that they will be starting a basketball program at the Pawcatuck Middle School and they are expecting about 20 participants.

V. Chairman's Report

According to Chairman Crowley, the Boathouse project is still in limbo.

The volleyball court and horseshoe pit project has begun at the pavilion and should be completed this week. There are no immediate plans on starting any leagues for volleyball or horseshoes, however, the courts will be regulation size. Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward to see if the shuffleboard could be repainted.

Initially, there were plans to put in two batting cages and the gravel foundation was put in place for both cages. One batting cage was completed and has been sufficient so, in the gravel area next to the first cage, they are planning on putting in a shed for tractors and equipment. Power and water will be run to the shed and there will be space for storage as well.

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commission that the softball field has been prepared for the upcoming season and looks great.

VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report

a. Spellman Park Trails

According to Mr. Ward, the Ad-hoc Committee walked the property and Mr. Ward provided the Recreation Commission with maps. The area can only be used as open space and is perfect for trails linking Spellman Park to the Blueberry Hill neighborhood. There are wetlands on the property so that is a hurdle that will have to be approved before work begins. Commissioner Ciriello informed the Recreation Commission that it is possible to walk across the wetlands without impacting them.

There was some discussion about possibly obtaining an easement through the Eisenberg property in order to connect to Moss Park. Mr. Ward will reach out to Candy Palmer, Town of Stonington Inland Wetlands to see what needs to be done in order to improve the overgrown existing trails on the property and possibly create new trails. These trails will connect neighborhoods to parks. It was discussed that the most feasible trail be worked on and completed first, then additional trails can be

discussed and approved. There was some additional discussion about possibly connecting Spellman Park to Trolley Lane and Barn Island in the future.

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to move forward with the initial plans for the Spellman Park Trails. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

VII. Old Business

a. Borough Playground Update

According to Mr. Ward, the equipment is due to be delivered next week and should be installed by the end of April. Public Works will be removing the woodchips. The play house and spring rocker will also be removed. It is still to be determined if any of the existing woodchips can be reused. Mr. Ward has received favorable responses so far. He again acknowledged the support that was given by the Stonington Village Improvement Association the Board of Warden & Burgesses.

Mr. Ward noted that he will be exploring whether a waterline can be installed since the Stonington Village Improvement Association has some funds and may add a drinking fountain.

VIII. New Business

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ciriello at 7:10 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

Next regular monthly meeting is April 22, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "C. Michael Crowley".

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman