

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, March 26, 2018 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 Theodore, Joe Ciriello, & Jeff Moore  
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore  
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina

**Absent:** Recreation Administrator Richard Ward

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

Chairman Crowley informed the Stonington High School Civic Students about how the Finance Report and Meeting Minutes from the previous month are distributed to the Recreation Commissioners prior to the meeting so the they have a chance to review the information in advance.

**I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission**  
None.

**II. Secretary's Report**

**a. Approval of minutes from February 2018 Commission meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Theodore to approve the February 26, 2018 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

**III. Finance Reports – Month Ending February 2018**

**a. General Fund -10173**

**b. Special Activity -21100**

Director Theodore informed the Recreation Commission that the bottom line on the Finance Report is not reflective of the final numbers for the closeout of the Spring Programs or all of the registrations for the Summer Programs. She also noted that Mr. Ward will have the breakdown, program by program, on the Winter Programs at the April meeting as well as an update on the Spring Programs. Commissioner Norcross asked how the Summer Camp registrations are going to which Director Theodore answered that over 80 participants have registered so far. This is a strong indication that the Summer Camp is a quality program. The Early Bird Registrations end March 30<sup>th</sup>. Director Theodore also stated that this year they will be using inhouse staff for site supervisors for Summer Camp. Mr. Ward will have more information for the Recreation Commissioners about the program in April. It was discussed that camp will be five days shorter this year since it can not begin until after school ends. School will be out later this year due to all the snow days so Summer Camp is looking at a June 25<sup>th</sup> start date. The price will remain the same. It breaks down to \$2.20 per day.

Director Theodore recommends that the Recreation Commissioners direct any questions about the Summer Camp Program to Recreation.

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

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

Director Theodore and Mr. Christina filled in for Mr. Ward. Director Theodore proceeded to tell the Recreation Commissioners about the meeting with Stonington Youth Football. They are looking to expand their current programming and are going forward with plans to expand the age group for flag football from 5-7-year old participants to also include 8-14-year old participants. According to Director Theodore, Recreation's flag program and the Stonington Youth Football's flag program are different. Stonington Youth Football's flag program is a more aggressive option. Children will be able to participate in both programs. There may be issues with field times in order to accommodate the addition to the Stonington Youth Football's programming. Director Theodore noted that existing programming will not be disrupted to accommodate this new addition. They will need to provide a schedule to Mr. Ward to see if this addition can be attainable. According to Director Theodore, Mr. Ward sent Stonington Youth Football a summary of the talking points from their meeting. Chairman Crowley noted that the first priority for the fields goes to the school, Recreation is second followed by other organizations or groups. There was further discussion about the availability of the fields for the upcoming season. The conditions of the fields are unknown at this point in time.

Mr. Christina remarked that there are 46 people participating in the Hike Stonington program and that the basketball clinics are underway and going well. Director Theodore stated that they have sold 20 seats for the Yankees trip which are enough to have the bus stop in Stonington. Director Theodore also noted that there are 43 active programs online accepting registrations. She remarked that Mr. Ward and Mr. Christina have been doing a great job.

The Stonington Village Improvement Association got the go ahead to install fitness equipment at the Stonington Borough Playground.

Chairman Crowley noted that the condition of the bathrooms in the Borough needs to be addressed. He suggested that the Recreation Commissioners and Ad-hoc come up with a plan to improve the facility.

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

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commission that the firepits are done and they look nice. They were completed by Mr. Weber out of Ledyard, CT for \$3500. They just need to put the grates on them. He also noted that the pavilions need some work but the entire roof does not need to be replaced. Chairman Crowley stated that Public Works has been cutting trees in the area around the pavilions. There is still some clean up work that needs to be finished. He noted that the gate on the playground needs to be fixed.

Chairman Crowley suggests that they make a plan for the horseshoe pits. Town Highway is willing to put those in. Also, the shuffleboard area needs repainting and Chairman Crowley suggests that

when a person rents a pavilion they sign out for a key that gives them access to the equipment for the horseshoe pits, shuffleboard and possibly cornhole. The equipment and key will need to be returned after using the facility.

Chairman Crowley is still working on looking into a tarp for the softball infield. He is waiting on a sample of the material. There was some discussion about the feasibility of taking the tarp on and off the infield during the season and how to store it when it is not covering the infield. According to Chairman Crowley, Town Highway may have some money in their budget to help Recreation with the cost of the tarp. Commissioner Theadore questioned how heavy the tarp would be in there is water on it. Chairman Crowley answered that the tarp would pitch towards third base but may still be heavy after it rains. The infield is so large the tarp will not cover up to the backstop. Commissioner Theadore recommends that an additional tarp be used to cover the home plate area as well.

Commissioner Moore noted that they are losing dirt at the backstop by the fence. Chairman Crowley stated that he will look into having it fixed.

**VI. Facilities ad-hoc committee**

Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 p.m.

**VII. Old Business**

There are some surface cracks in the tennis courts. Photos have been taken and sent to Dalton who said the surface is still playable and he will come and look at the courts. Commissioner Ciriello stated that he went to look at the cracks and none of them are in the areas that were just redone and they are not in areas that will impact the level of play. They will easily be able to get through the season. Commissioner Ciriello noted that we have had some cold weather and these cracks may close up when the weather is warmer. Director Theodore will follow up with Dalton and then revisit this again in the fall.

**VIII. New Business**

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:42 P.M. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Prachniak, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Notes:**

**Next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2018.**

  
Respectfully Submitted,

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman