

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, March 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
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore
Stonington Community Center Representative Kelsey Haack

Absent: Commissioner Larry Theodore

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

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

-Kelsey Haack, Stonington Community Center RE: Youth Basketball League

Ms. Haack is responsible for the organizing and scheduling of the Youth Basketball Recreation League and gave the Commission a brief overview of the program. For both boys and girls, the age divisions are 3rd-5th and 6th-8th. There were 66 female players and 118 male players for a total of 184 players. There were 22 teams, 22 head coaches and parent volunteers. There were 8 games in the season which ran from November 14th – February 10th. There was a lot of positive feedback. An end of program survey showed that 97% of participants would return and 3% have aged out of the program. Commissioner Ciriello added that the program was better than previous years and that the overall response was positive, people were pleased and found the program enjoyable. Chairman Crowley stressed that it is necessary to have good officials/referees which can make or break the league. Mr. Ward asked Ms. Haack why the number of participants was down compared to previous years and she noted that the league possibly overlapped with other sports.

II. Secretary's Report

– Approval of minutes from Commission meeting February, 2017

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

– Approval of minutes from Ad Hoc meeting March 21, 2017

The Ad Hoc Committee met on March 21, 2017. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee made the following motion:

A motion was made by committee member Joe McKernan to approve the March 21, 2017 Ad Hoc Secretary's Report as written. Motion seconded by committee member Joe Ciriello, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports – Month Ending February, 2017

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

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the General Fund is on target. As mentioned in the February meeting, he only foresees going over in the utilities line item. Mr. Ward has asked for an additional \$1500 for the utilities line item in the next budget. The utilities line item covers the costs of the lights at Spellman Park; at the softball field, tennis and basketball courts as well as the bathroom. Chairman Crowley feels it is worth looking into having a motion sensor light on the bathrooms so it is not on all night and day. It was originally intended as a deterrent but now there are cameras watching the area.

Mr. Ward noted that the Special Activity account is still showing a negative because Summer Camp Registrations are still coming in. There is \$72,270.91 in revenue and \$109,872.35 in expenses for a net revenue of negative \$37,601.44, however, compared to last year there has been a 39% increase in revenue totals.

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 began by noting that the Special Activity 21100 account is showing a negative at this time because of how the fiscal year splits the Summer Camp Program. He was able to create a chart showing the Recreation Activity Fund's Revenue and Expenses based on the calendar year. This chart clearly shows a steady increase in revenue over the last three years despite a lot of long term programs like volleyball and softball having reduced numbers. This year is looking strong since the Mystic Indoor Leagues added \$15,000-\$20,000 in revenue. Ms. Theodore thanked Mr. Ward for all his hard work and achievements. Recreation has something for every age group and she hopes it will continue to grow. Chairman Crowley also thanked Mr. Ward for his effort and said that it is all about getting the community involved. He hopes that when the two new schools are build that Recreation can add even more programming.

V. Chairman's Report

- Chairman Crowley informed the Commission that the Dog Park in the Stonington Borough is still an ongoing matter.
- The softball scoreboard will be installed soon, however, there will be no sponsorship fees.
- Chairman Crowley informed the Commission that the Boathouse project is still ongoing and they have put the project manager position out to bid. Chairman Crowley will keep the Commission informed about the project but at this time he is unsure Recreation will be responsible for this park once it is completed.
- Chairman Crowley noted that, under a Memo of Understanding, the school is responsible for taking care of the practice football field, however, only Recreation uses this field for flag football and an adult team also rents it. Recreation has to depend on the school to line and mow the field. According to Mr. Ward, the division of labor can sometimes create urgencies for one side or the other. Chairman Crowley and Mr. Ward would like to have Recreation responsible for this field instead of the school. Also, Chairman Crowley would like to revisit the Memo of

Understanding that was created about five years ago regarding the tennis courts. He would like it to be the responsibility of Recreation to take down and put up the windscreens at the courts. The Commission agreed.

VI. Facilities ad-hoc committee

-Tennis Court Project

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that there was a miscalculation on the estimate for the tennis court project on behalf of Hinding. The \$47,000 project is actually a \$60,000 project. The company did not include the patching of the cracks in the estimate. The project will now go out to bid. The good news is that the specifications and measurements are all spelled out so hopefully Mr. Ward will be able to cross reference and get a competitive bid.

Chairman Crowley spoke with Dalton who replaced the tennis courts back in 2009 and passed his information to Mr. Ward. Mr. Ward has not heard back from Dalton. Chairman Crowley stated that the Commission is familiar with his work so he would like to involve Dalton. Quality of work is very important when considering bids.

-Batting Cages

Mr. Ward submitted for a grant but was unsuccessful. He was encouraged to reapply for the grant. For now, the school will buy the batting cages, public works will put in the foundation and Recreation will chip in for the cost of materials for the foundation. They are looking to put the batting cages in along the basketball courts, parallel to the tennis courts. The ice skating rink may need to be removed. Barbara McKrell still needs to access the drainage in that area. There is no power in that location so if a pitching machine is needed and extension cord could be run to that location.

VII. Old Business

- Two of the four new cameras have been installed. Mr. LaSaracina is on target and will have them all up and running by next week.
- As part of the CIP grant, the playground boundaries at Spellman Park are on target. They may also be able to replace a piece of equipment that was taken out.
- Mr. Ward will send an email to the Commissioners to get their feedback on the Ballato Field dedication ceremony which will be held in June. The Ballato family is very excited about this dedication.
- The Pawcatuck Lions and Dean Beverly have an interest in doing a community project at the Pavilions. Chairman Crowley suggests getting a plan of what they would like to do and what needs to be done. Ms. Theodore noted that the Stonington Rotary Club has been getting more and more involved in community projects as well.

Chairman Crowley asked the high school students in attendance what they would like to see happen to which one student replied that she would like to see the windscreens go back up at the tennis courts.

VIII. New Business

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made Commissioner Moore at 6:44 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

Next Regular Monthly meeting is scheduled for April 24 at 6:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


C. Michael Crowley, Chairman