

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, April 24, 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 & Jeff Moore
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore
Stonington Community Center Representative Kelsey Haack

Absent: Commissioner Joe Ciriello

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

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

II. Secretary's Report

– Approval of minutes from Commission meeting March, 2017

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

III. Finance Reports – Month Ending March, 2017

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

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the revenue in the Special Activity-21100 account is \$93,486.62, up from approximately \$77,000 last year resulting in a 21% increase in revenue for programs. Summer Camp Registrations are starting to come in. All is looking good on the expense side.

The General Fund-10173 account is looking good; however, the utilities line item will be over. The lights will be turned on at the field soon. The budget request has been adjusted to accommodate the increase in the utilities line item. Recreation asked for an additional \$1500 for the utilities line item for the next fiscal year.

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

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report
a. 16/17 Winter Programs Final Report
b. 2017 Spring Program Updates
c. Summer Plans

Mr. Ward gave an overview of the Program Expense Report. There were 63 adult program participants, 420 youth program participants, and 54 family program participants for a total of 420 participants in the 2017 Winter Programs. The Winter Programs net profit was \$1778.20. The Adult Exercise Programs ran at a loss of \$1975. The Adult Exercise expenses include the rental and instructor fees. The rental of the Black Bear Karate Studio is \$420 per month for all classes over a three-month period, plus instructor fees, for total of \$3520 in direct costs. Chairman Crowley is hoping that once the new schools are up and running it may be possible to move the evening classes to those facilities. Ms. Theodore stated that the rental fees at Black Bear are a deal but the program just does not have the numbers, however, there is a dedicated class. Chairman Crowley would like to get the cost down but he does not want to eliminate the adult programs. Mr. Ward agrees and said that the program does serve a need in the community.

The Youth Winter Programs included Flag Football with 100 participants, Fencing with 14 participants, High School REC Basketball with 31 participants, Tennis Lessons with 5 participants, Indoor Soccer with 245 participants and the Multi-Sport Blast with 25 participants for a total of 420 participants. Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward about lacrosse to which Mr. Ward stated that they saw what was done with the soccer program at the Mystic Indoor Sports Arena and they may have an interest next winter. Ms. Haack stated that there is a free clinic for the SEALS at the COMO but they do not run any other clinics.

Mr. Ward noted that Flag Football had a lot of expenses which was mainly due to purchasing jerseys for the participants. He plans to increase the cost to participate next year to cover the expense for the jerseys or charge less to register and have the participants purchase their own jerseys. Chairman Crowley suggested purchasing T-shirts instead of jerseys to save on the cost. Mr. Ward also noted that they may be able to get sponsors for next season.

Mr. Ward gave an overview of the Winter Family Programs. There are no expenses with the safe boating class. He informed the Commission that the Celtics trip had to be cancelled due to weather. The Celtics tickets could not be refunded, so there was a loss of \$1360, however, he did get a credit with the bus company. Overall, the Winter Programs did not run at a loss. There was a 6% margin over expense, however, Mr. Ward would like to see a 15-20% margin. He is hoping to meet that goal next winter so he will work on the Flag Football pricing and the Adult Exercise Program numbers. The circumstance with the bus trip could not be helped.

Mr. Ward will give the Commission a program breakdown on a quarterly basis. This will provide Mr. Ward with a history to compare to on a yearly basis.

Mr. Ward gave the Commissioners each a copy of the Spring Calendar back pack flyer. He noted that the Adult Sports Leagues are kicking in and that the Coed Soccer League was cancelled since there were only 13 people registered. Men's Softball has 5-6 teams and the Co-ed Softball had 6 teams last year which Mr. Ward is hoping will grow. Tennis starts later in June and the Battle of Stonington will be held in the summer. The UK Soccer Camp ran during Spring vacation. Recreation has a website which is accessible through the Town website. The online registration system is the best website to look at to see all the programming.

There will be a few more programs added to the Summer Programs, a Cheer/Dance/ Gymnastics Program, a volleyball camp and a tennis camp. Tom McCoy, organizer of the Fun Runs, and the Westerly Track and Athletic Club will be holding a 5K run in Stonington at the end of August. The Derek Jeter Day is a sold-out game and Recreation has 11 spots available. They are going through Silver Mills Tours.

The Summer Camp registrations are going well. They are close to capacity. People are registering early which speaks to the quality of the program. Mr. Ward and Kristen King are holding camp staff interviews this week. There are over 70 applicants for 5 open spots. There is a good returning staff.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley informed the Commission that he received a good price to redo the fireplaces in Spellman Park. There are 5 existing fireplaces. Due to the fact that many people bring their own grills, he does not know if all 5 fireplaces will be used. Since the fireplaces are a historical part of the Park, Chairman Crowley does not want to remove any of them but maybe restore all of them and only have a few that will be fully operational. Chairman Crowley would like to check with the town historian. Some of the overgrowth may also need to be trimmed. He got a cost of \$2700 to redo all 5 of them. Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward to discuss this with Ad-hoc. Ms. Theodore will also bring this up at the department head meeting.

Chairman Crowley told the Commission that the softball scoreboard is going up this Friday.

VI. Facilities ad-hoc committee -Tennis Court Project

Mr. Ward gave an update on the tennis court project. There was a miscalculation on the original proposal from Hinding. Mr. Ward met with Dalton who proposed to complete the project for the same amount that he charged in 2012. Ms. Theodore noted that they have documented 21 separate occasions of working with Dalton since 1987. Dalton's quote is \$30,000 less than the quote from Hinding. Mr. Ward will need to submit a bid waiver for the project and once that is complete, Dalton can receive partial payment for the repair work he recently completed and then start this project. He was very happy with the way the courts have been maintained over the years.

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the remaining tennis screens will be put up this week.

-Batting Cages

The batting cage project has started. There is enough space to put in two cages by the old ice skating rink. Town highway is doing the work, the school is purchasing the cages and Recreation is paying for the materials. The cages are for both softball and baseball and will have a moveable screen for the pitchers. Mr. Ward asked the Commission what type of surface is necessary. Commissioner Moore noted that if a pitching machine is used then infield dirt is not necessary. Mr. Ward stated that it would be \$5800 for a clay/sand mix and \$6700 for the mix that is currently on the softball field. It may be possible to use a mat for the batter to reduce "digging out" at the plate or possibly use a mat for the entire cage. Mr. Ward may want to get feedback from the coaches on

the material that should be installed. Chairman Crowley commented that the cages are for batting and not for fielding.

-Security Cameras

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that all the cameras are up and running and that he is very pleased. Ms. Theodore also stated that the cameras are very useful.

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. King about turning the practice field over to Recreation.

Chairman Crowley was told that the baseball field would be staying with the High School. There will be a crew working on the infield and they will also be lining the field.

Chairman Crowley noted that there were issues with the softball field. The mix on the field is a major-league mix and it needs to be watered. The field is in good shape now.

VII. Old Business

The Ballato Field Dedication Ceremony will be held Saturday, June 10th at 10 a.m. Mr. Ward is open to suggestions for an M/C for the program and also asked for suggestions of what will be written on the plaque which he will need to order soon. He asked the Commissioners to email him with suggestions.

VIII. New Business

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theodore at 6:53 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

Next Regular Monthly meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2017 at 6:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman