

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2015 at 6:00PM
Human Service Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

**Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley and Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Jennifer Norcross, Beth Quesnel,
and Larry Theadore. Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Human Services Manager Leanne Theodore**

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

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

-Field Update: Barbara McKrell, Public Works Director

Ms. McKrell gave an overview on the working relationship between Public Works, Recreation and the Stonington Public Schools. When the transition and responsibility of the fields and grounds was given to PW it was quickly discovered that equipment was needed and training was provided. Initially a majority of the work was "contracted out"; Ms McKrell reported that, at this time, about 90% of the work will be done in-house. PW did hire a consultant from the Town of East Lyme to help with the maintenance of fields.

Multi-purpose Field update: Ms. McKrell reported that the Town has taken the necessary steps to correct the situation. We are awaiting word from the bonding company on their options of either refunding the money or if they will hire another company. She will follow up with them next week.

Lay down area (behind West Pavilion): Ms. McKrell reported that a majority of the work was able to be done in-house with a significant cost savings. A few tasks still needed to be done with an estimated completion by mid to end of May.

Other updates given by Ms. McKrell included the fencing around the basketball court, the shed at the softball field; the replacement of the softball in-field (pushed to the fall) and the monthly meetings between the schools, public works and recreation.

The Rec Commission thanked Ms. McKrell for her report.

II. Secretary's Report – March 30, 2015

Chairman Crowley ask that the fields be identified under NEW BUSINESS (Item B) and that the field that work is being done on is the Multipurpose Field, also under NEW BUSINESS (Item B).

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to approve the March 30, 2015 Secretary's Report with the noted changes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Quesnel, all in favor, motion approved.

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Budget Report – Month ending March 2015

- a. General Fund
- b. Special Activity

A motion was made by Commissioner Quesnel to approve the budget report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved

III. Programming Report / Recreation Administrator's Report

- Winter Wrap up totals
- Spring Programs

Recreation Administrator Richard Ward reported that Winter Programs had over 740 participants from December to March (including the REC/COMO youth basketball league). Highlights included growth in numbers for the Indoor Soccer clinics, Lacrosse Clinics and the HS Basketball League. Revenue generated from winter programs was over \$19,500 with expenses of just over 13,600. The majority of the net was from the rental payment for Palmer field usage by the RI Riptide Semi-pro Football team (\$3,425).

Discussion entailed regarding the REC/COMO Youth Basketball League with concerns raised about the custodial overtime fees paid to the schools (\$2,003.67). The Commission asked Mr. Ward to look into the history and double check on the relationship and the responsibilities of each organization.

Spring Programs; Mr. Ward provided an update on numbers for spring programs and that registration will continue through May and June. He reported that participants from the long standing Men's Golf League decided to break off and form their own league. The Commission noted that the Town should continue to offer a league. Mr. Ward will look into other venues and opportunities to continue the program that started back in the mid '60s with then Rec Director, Woody Douville

IV. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley thanked Public Works Director Barbara McKrell and stated that he hoped that the members had a better understanding of the extent and the job that PW is doing to maintain our fields.

V. Old Business

a. Facilities Ad-Hoc Committee

Discussion regarding the forming of an ad-hoc committee with the purpose of identifying maintenance needs and projects for our recreation facilities. This committee will be charged with setting priorities and to work the details together with the Recreation Administrator and report back to the Commission on the actions and progress.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norcross to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee as discussed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved. Members of the committee will include Commissioners Crowley, Ciriello, McKernan, and

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Prachniak along with Recreation Administrator Richard Ward. A monthly meeting date and time will be announced.

b. Emergency procedures

Mr. Ward reported that emergency procedures for all program staff, coaches and instructors are in place and that he will include the written notice in the Commission's packet for next month's meeting.

c. Storage Unit

Chairman Crowley noted that Public Works repaired the storage shed at the softball field and will be using that to store their equipment. No updates were available on the "red-box" Storage Unit (behind outdoor basketball courts). It was suggested that the newly established Ad-Hoc Committee take a look at doing something with that.

d. Fencing along playground

Chairman Crowley reported that the chain-linked fencing along the Spellman Park playground that fell during the course of the winter was replaced with a gate allowing access for general maintenance of the playground.

No additional action taken

VI. New Business

Mr. Ward gave an update on the progress of the Field Usage Fees mentioning that he attended a meeting that was held with Selectman Rob Simmons and various Youth Sports Clubs. At this point Mr. Simmons is waiting for some additional information from the teams and anticipates moving this forward in the near future. Mr. Ward will keep the Commission posted with any news.

A discussion entailed regarding the Youth Football League and the newly started (fall 2014) Recreation Flag Football program. The Commission asked Mr. Ward to look into how both programs can work together. At this time the Commission has no desire to "give up" that program, as it was very well received by both parents and participants.

No additional action taken

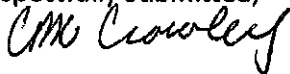
VII. Meeting Adjourned – 8:10 PM

A motion was made by Commissioner Theadore to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKernan, all in favor, motion approved.

Next REC Commission meeting date: Tuesday*, May 26 6:00 PM

*note different week day due to the Memorial Day Holiday

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman