

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, May 22, 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 Ciriello, Joe McKernan, Larry Theodore & Jeff Moore
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore

Chairman Michael Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission
None

II. Secretary's Report

– Approval of minutes from Commission meeting April, 2017

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the April 24, 2017 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports – Month Ending April, 2017

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

According to Mr. Ward, the Special Activity 21100 Account shows a total revenue of \$113,350.22 compared to \$105,167 last year. This is an 8% increase. May and June are big months for Summer Camp registrations so that percentage will increase even more. On the expense side, the Recreation Activity Account is almost breaking even. Approximately \$11,500 has been spent on facilities maintenance which includes the cameras and the soccer goals. Also, the tennis court repairs may hit this fiscal year.

The Town Recreation budget is looking good. The only line item that will be over is utilities.

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

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the budget for Recreation was passed and there will be a new Recreation Program Coordinator which they intend to hire to start on July 1, 2017. This is a full time, year-round hourly position. According to Ms. Theodore, the filling of this position will alleviate some of the staff's burdens and also help Mr. Ward with his responsibilities. Also, an additional \$1500 to the utilities line item was also approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

- Summer Plans

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that there will be some new items added to the Summer Programs such as a Cheer, Dance, Gymnastics Camp and a Volleyball Camp. The Volleyball Camp will be for high schoolers and coordinated by Connecticut College. It is advertised in the backpack flyer. There will be a Shoreline Jump Clinic which will run two or three days for jumping track events. The track coaches are holding a youth clinic and there will be soccer programs running throughout the summer. The 5K Cross Country and Fun Run will take place at the end of summer.

Chairman Crowley mentioned that maybe something should be put in the papers to advertise for the Summer Programs. Ms. Theodore noted that they do a press release but the papers pick and choose what to print. Commissioner Norcross and Chairman Crowley will reach out to the papers. Ms. Theodore noted that there is a good following on social media and she will create an Instagram account for Recreation as well.

Mr. Ward noted that the Youth Basketball program is returning for both boys and girls. There will also be tennis lessons and a week-long tennis camp running mid-summer. Mr. Ward also noted that Davis Standard is sponsoring the Movie Nights at Mystic River Park. They are planning to show the following films; Finding Dory, Secret Life of Pets, Stork and Pirates of the Caribbean. In case of bad, weather the viewing will be moved indoors to the Mystic Art Association.

There were 70 applicants for the 6-7 open summer camp staff positions. There will be a total of 20 staff members, some are returning from last year. Ms. Theodore stated that they expanded the junior camp staff and brought in all of those interested in the positions in order to give them all a chance to try it out. Some may find out it is not for them and others may join the regular staffing in the future.

Mr. Ward stated that this will be an exciting summer.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley found some interesting information regarding the picnic area in Spellman Park. He enlisted the help of Dave Erskine who utilized the Historical Society's records to find out more about the area. Chairman Crowley gave a brief summary of what was discovered. The picnic area was built in 1937 as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Twelve local men were hired to complete the work which also included the track and football field area, the pond and other buildings. The fireplaces are not mentioned specifically. Chairman Crowley is not sure exactly why so many fireplaces were built, however, there may have been a need for that many at the time since people did not have access to portable grills which are more common now.

There was some discussion of bringing in the Pawcatuck Lions to help with the fireplace preservation project. The Commissioners feel that this could be a good story and good publicity for the Town. Chairman Crowley plans to continue working on this project.

VI. Facilities ad-hoc committee
-Tennis Court Project

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the bid waiver was approved by the Board of Finance and they will be going forward with Dalton. There is a brief window for the project at the end of the high school season and before the start of the adult season. If the project cannot be completed during that time it will have to wait until mid to end of August.

-Batting Cages

The project has been delayed slightly due to rain but one of the cages is almost complete. Mr. Ward is waiting on a grant to complete the second cage. The foundation for the second cage is complete but the grant would cover the cage and also run electricity to the cages. Chairman Crowley wants some landscaping done in that area after both cages are completed. At this time, Mr. Ward is not sure of the exact timing of the project's completion. They are also working on drainage issues in that area.

-Haley Park Slide

The ten-foot plastic slide is buckling at Haley Park. The slide is now closed off. Mr. Ward is looking into replacing the slide. It may be possible to add on to the newer existing slide.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the Jim Ballato plaque has come in and will be mounted to the rock next week. Charlie Holdridge is expected to be the MC for the dedication ceremony. Dave Erskine, Rob Simmons and a Ballato family member will also speak at the dedication. It is looking to be a very nice event. Commissioner Norcross has agreed to help out at the VIP area and also welcome attendees to enjoy refreshments at the pavilion on the playground.

The dedication ceremony will be held on June 10th at 10 a.m. Human Services has issued a press release on Facebook and also on the Community Forum. Chairman Crowley suggests putting it on the sign in front of Human Services. He also asked that they make sure there is power in that area to connect the speakers and microphone. Ms. Theodore noted that they would borrow a microphone and podium from the school for the ceremony.

The windscreens still need to be put up at the tennis courts. Mr. Ward noted that there has been little cooperation regarding this matter. Chairman Crowley suggested that the Commission should look into hiring a handyman that Mr. Ward can call upon for all the little odd jobs that crop up.

Chairman Crowley asked the Commissioners to inform Mr. Ward if they know of someone who would be able to do odd jobs when needed.

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that ServePro will be cleaning the bathrooms before the start of the summer programs and then again in the fall. Commissioner Ciriello noted that the inside of the bathroom also needs to be repainted. The facility is about 15 years old and some maintenance is necessary.

VIII. New Business
None

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theodore at 6:52 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

Next Regular Monthly meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2017 at 6:00PM.

No Regular Monthly Meetings are Scheduled for July & August

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman