

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, June 26, 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
Stonington Community Center Representative Kelsey Haack

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

**I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission
-Josh Piver Cup: Stonington HS Girls & Boys Varsity Tournament (Fall 2017)**

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that Adam Gibbs, Stonington High School Senior and goalkeeper for the Stonington High School Boys Soccer Team, is present to discuss plans for the Josh Piver Cup Tournament and a possible one year sponsorship. The Josh Piver Cup will be similar to the Westerly Sun Cup Tournament. He is asking Recreation to sponsor the Tournament this first year and then any money made during this Tournament will be set aside to fund future years. Coach deCastro is also working to get the tournament moving. There will be four teams participating, Stonington, Chariho, Westerly and Fitch. The Tournament will be held September 9th and 16th and will be played on Palmer Field. Both the boys and girls teams will be included and there will be a total of eight games played.

They are asking Recreation for a \$5,000 commitment for this one year. That money will be used for operational costs to host the Tournament and for jerseys and trophies. It will cover about 90% of the expenses. The admission will be \$5 for a day pass which will include all four games played that day. They expect about \$3,000 in ticket sales over the entire Tournament and this should be enough to cover the operational costs for holding it again next year. There will also be food sales and raffles.

Chairman Crowley asked if these will be sanctioned games to which Mr. Gibbs responded that they would count towards the regular season and that all coaches and teams are available on those dates and they are all set with the necessary approvals. The only team Stonington does not regularly play is Chariho. Chairman Crowley also asked if the High School is contributing to the Tournament since this is a high school team event and not a Recreation event. Mr. Ward noted that the High School provides timers and officials and anything else that it normally does for a regular season game. The High School is committed to running this Tournament for one year. There was also a question in regards to the jerseys. Mr. Gibbs replied that Stonington will wear the memorial cup jerseys and the visiting teams will have memorial cup t-shirts but will wear their normal jerseys during the games. The jerseys will be used multiple years to cut down on the Tournament's expenses for future years.

Mr. Ward sees this as an exciting opportunity to invest back into a program that has been very good to Recreation. He has no problems justifying helping them start this Tournament given the money that the soccer programs have brought in for Recreation.

There was some discussion among the members of the Commission about how the money generated from this Tournament will be earmarked for next year's Tournament. Revenue from ticket sales goes to the General Fund. Commissioner Ciriello noted that these are in season games so it will be necessary to check to see if the money generated can even be applied to next year's Tournament. Chairman Crowley stated this is a good idea and he is not against it but it needs to be done the right way. He was also concerned that other sports teams may want to hold similar events. The Commission needs more information before they will decide whether or not to sponsor the Josh Piver Cup Tournament's first year. Chairman Crowley asked Commissioner McKernan and Commissioner Ciriello to get in touch with Mark Friese and Bryan Morrone and let them know Recreation's concerns. Mr. Gibbs stated that they would need an answer by mid-July in order to proceed.

If necessary, a special meeting will be held to decide on this item since there is no regularly scheduled meeting in July.

II. Secretary's Report

– Approval of minutes from Commission meeting May, 2017

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the May 22, 2017 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports – Month Ending May, 2017

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

Mr. Ward highlighted that the Special Activity 21100 account's total revenue is \$137,165. This is \$31,98 above last year which is a 30% growth. Recreation is now in the black on the expense side in the Special Activity account.

The tennis court project will go on the next fiscal year.

The General Fund 10173 is right on target according to Mr. Ward. There was some discussion on how the department will not be moving money from one line item to cover an overage in another. This will help show a more accurate view of what is used in each line each 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

- Summer Updates

Mr. Ward noted that the Summer Camp started last week. There was one rain out day but he is very pleased so far. This Friday the Summer Camp is going to LAUNCH, which is the first of three field

trips during camp. There are 167 children registered in Summer Camp and they average just over 100 children each day. The number of Middle Schoolers that participate doubled to 18 this year. The first sports camps are starting up, girl's soccer, girl's lacrosse and tennis lessons. Recreation is also hosting the COMO tennis. In addition to Davis Standard, EverSource is now a sponsor of Movie Night. Everything is going well so far. Chairman Crowley noted that this is a great start.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward if he has contacted the Pawcatuck Lions in regard to the picnic area project. Mr. Ward stated that he met with their board and got a favorable response but this is on hold for now.

Chairman Crowley is concerned with the lights in the bathroom area. Ms. Theodore noted that EverSource will be doing a municipal assessment. She will inform Chairman Crowley of when EverSource will be addressing this and have him sit in on the meeting to ask any questions he may have regarding the exterior lights.

Chairman Crowley informed the Commission that he had a complaint come in about the softball infield not being kept up as well during the High School's off season. Mr. Ward noted that it is maintained as well as it can be at this time. Chairman Crowley just wants to make sure it is kept up.

Chairman Crowley asked about the Recreation Assistant position. Ms. Theodore stated that she is working to get the advertisement out this week.

Chairman Crowley noted that the Boathouse project is still in the works. It is looking like Public Works will maintain it. He is not sure if it will come to Recreation. Mr. Ward noted that he likes the idea of being involved with the project since there is a lot of potential for Recreation. He would like to not have to ask for permission for Recreation to use a park in town. Recreation could have the opportunity to offer kayaking classes or other water related programs to residents. Mr. Ward informed Chairman Crowley that he would like to be included in any future discussions so not to miss out on any potential opportunities.

**VI. Facilities ad-hoc committee
-Tennis Court Project**

Mr. Ward gave the Commission an update on the tennis court project. They are looking at the middle to end of August to get Dalton in to start the project. Chairman Crowley noted that it is very important that this is completed this year. He also noted that it is important for the Commission to keep in mind when the courts will have to be repaired in the future. Dalton gave a two-year warranty so the Commission should be prepared for this expense again in a few years.

VII. Old Business

-Batting Cages

Mr. Ward noted that one batting cage is complete and it looks great. The initial response he received from the softball and baseball teams was positive. Mr. Ward will be putting in for a grant

to complete the second batting cage and install electricity to the area for a pitching machine. He should have an answer in January about the grant.

-Haley Park Slide

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the damaged slide has been removed and it is to be determined if it will be replaced or if they will add on to the other equipment at the park. Chairman Crowley asked how much activity there is at this park to which Ms. Theodore noted that it attracts a lot of the families in that area. Chairman Crowley stated that if the park is being used then it is worth replacing the slide.

Mr. Ward thanked everyone that attended the Jim Ballato dedication ceremony. The event was great. The family was very grateful and sent a letter which Mr. Ward read to the Commission. The success of the event speaks volumes of what Mr. Ballato did for the Town of Stonington.

Mr. Ward also noted that Kevin Breault took a look at the bathroom at Spellman Park. Mr. Breault, who is contracted through the Town, was recommended to Mr. Ward by the Town Highway. Mr. Breault suggested that the old paint should be removed, scrapped/sandblasted, before fresh paint is applied otherwise the paint will continue to peel.

In addition to the bathrooms being professionally cleaned at the beginning and end of the Summer season, Mr. Ward informed the Commission that McNeil's Cleaners was also hired to clean the bathrooms at Spellman Park once a week. There is also a maintenance man that opens the facility each day who also cleans each morning.

VIII. New Business
None

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theodore at 7:10 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

Next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Sept 25, 2017.

No Regular Monthly Meetings are Scheduled for July & August

Respectfully Submitted,


C. Michael Crowley, Chairman