

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, September 24, 2018 at 6:00 PM  
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Chairman C. Michael Crowley & Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak  
Commissioners Jennifer Norcross, Larry Theadore, Joe Ciriello & Jeff Moore  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward  
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina  
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore

**Absent:** Commissioner Joe McKernan

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

**I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission**

None.

**II. Secretary's Report**

**a. Approval of minutes from June 2018 Commission meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the June 25, 2018 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

**III. Finance Reports**

**17/18 Year ending Reports & Month ending August 2018**

**a. General Fund -10173**

**b. Special Activity -21100**

Mr. Ward presented the Recreation Commission with two reports, the fiscal year ending report and the month ending August 2018. He first addressed the fiscal year end report. The year ended in the black. The Flag Football and Basketball programs have grown tremendously. The Summer Playground Program used to be a shared program with Youth and Families, now it is only Recreation's program. He did note that the senior exercise program is down slightly but has been doing better since it was moved to Stonington Arms. The Soccer Program was down 50-60 participants compared to the year before. All the other programs are doing well. Mr. Ward explained to the Recreation Commission how the Summer Program registrations effect the fiscal year end report since the fiscal year ends right in the middle of the Summer Playground Program. The numbers will turn around in the spring when next year's registrations begin.

Director Theodore commended Mr. Ward and Mr. Christina for all their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Ward commented that the August report is upside-down due to the Summer Playground Program. This will be rectified when registrations begin in the spring.

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

#### **IV. Recreation Administrator's Report**

##### **a. Summer Program**

According to Mr. Ward, there were 1262 participants in Summer Programs this year compared to 1017 last year. This past summer generated \$147,000 in revenue. Mr. Ward will provide the Recreation Commission with the numbers from both this year and last year Summer Programs for comparison at next month's meeting.

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward if he is correct in saying that Recreation serves around 2,000 people each year. Mr. Ward stated that this would be correct, however, the number may be closer 2,500 people served. The numbers are continuing to grow. This shows how essential it was to hire a Recreation Program Coordinator.

Mr. Christina informed the Recreation Commission that the Summer Playground Program was very successful. There were 151 children registered for the program. There were three trips each serving eighty children. Mr. Christina noted that it was very helpful to have someone from Human Services at the Summer Playground Program full time. He stated that the camp runs really well but it can continue to expand, however, Director Theodore noted that they have limited use of the High School during the summer. There was some discussion about the program's daily hours and if it is necessary to utilize additional sites. Director Theodore stated that there has not been a demand for extended hours. Mr. Christina noted that there was, on average, 125 children at the Summer Playground Program per day. There is plenty of outdoor space, however, indoor space is limited.

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the Hoop Academy ran a week-long camp with 45 participants. There was a great response to the Cowboy Kitchen classes. There were 15-20 people signed up for horseback riding. The Middle School Summer Camp program ran the same weeks as the Summer Playground Program. The tennis camp also did well, there were 40 registrations. Shoreline Track had 26 participants. Chairman Crowley noted that he was told that our fields are some of the best fields around. Mr. Ward stated that Public Works did a fantastic job fixing Piver Field. The Recreation Commission asked Mr. Ward to send a thank you to Public Works on behalf of the Commission.

##### **b. Spellman Park Update**

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the horseshoe pits and shuffle board at the Pavilions has been put on the backburner. He hopes they will be completed by next spring.

**c. Borough Playground Update**

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that they have found that the part of the Borough playscape that is underground has rotted out and is unsafe. The entire playscape has since been removed. There was further discussion about forming a plan to replace the playscape and other playscape options that are available. He has been in contact with the Stonington Village Improvement Association. They have been very receptive to helping with this project.

**V. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commission that the Town has set aside \$150,000 for the turf field. They will continue to put away \$30,000 each year for this purpose. Recreation has approximately \$25-30 thousand from the field usage fees set aside for the turf field. Chairman Crowley asked Commissioner Norcross if she could find out the replacement cost of the turf field.

Chairman Crowley inquired about the cracks in the tennis and basketball courts. Commissioner Ciriello stated that the tennis courts look good. Mr. Ward stated that he will be bringing the issue with the cracks in the basketball courts to the Ad-Hoc Committee. It will need to be sealed before winter.

Chairman Crowley noted that Public Works is looking to add onto the Palmer building for more storage space. That will free up a shed that Recreation may be able to use for equipment for the Pavilions. Mr. Ward noted that the shed should be near the Pavilions, so maybe this shed could be moved. There will be further discussion about the shed.

**VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report**

**a. Meeting Scheduled October 17 at 4pm**

This is an FYI.

**VII. Old Business**

Mr. Ward noted that they are still waiting for the replacement piece for the fitness equipment.

**VIII. New Business**

**a. 2019 Commission Meeting Schedule**

The 2019 Recreation Commission meetings will be the fourth Monday of each month with the exception that May's meeting will be the third Monday due to the Memorial Day Holiday. There will be no meetings in the months of July, August and December.

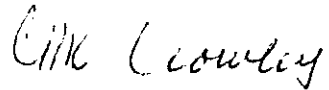
Commissioner Norcross made a motion to approve the 2019 Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule as discussed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:56 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Notes: Next regular monthly meeting is October 22, 2018**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Michael Crowley".

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman