

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, October 22, 2018 at 6:00 PM
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

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

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

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

None.

II. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from Sept 2018 Commission meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the September 24, 2018 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports

a. General Fund -10173

b. Special Activity -21100

First, Mr. Ward took the opportunity to welcome back Commissioner McKernan. He continued with the Special Activity 21100 account. The revenue in this account is \$27,193 which is down compared to \$35,528 last year. Mr. Ward attributes approximately \$4,000 of the decrease to a loss in field usage fees. The football team usually plays 4 or 5 games which results in approximately \$4,000 in field usage fees, however, they were asked not to come back this season for other reasons.

The flag football number is down due to the fact that the fees were collected sooner in the season, however, there are more participants in the flag football program this year. The number of participants in the soccer program is down slightly, but the number of participants in the tennis program is up. Summer Playground numbers were also up this past season. Mr. Ward noted that the Summer Playground expenses will show on the Recreation ledger but the ledger will not show any revenue until registrations are collected in the spring. He also informed the Recreation Commission that flag football participants will receive NFL jerseys which accounts for the \$6345 expense, however, the cost for the jerseys are built into the fees for the program.

Mr. Ward commented that everything is on target in the General Fund 10173 account except for utilities. There was a \$2300 expense to repair the lights at the tennis courts. Commissioner McKernan asked if the lights were switched to LED's. Mr. Ward stated that they are part of a program with Eversource, however, they are not a high priority. Chairman Crowley suggested that Recreation should look into replacing a few lights at a time with LED's in order to upgrade the facility and run more efficiently.

Mr. Ward intended on providing the Recreation Commission with a synopsis of completed programs. He is still working on this.

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.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Borough Playground Update

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that he provided Leanne Theodore and Rob Simmons with three options to replace the playscape at the Borough Playground. The first costs \$64,360 installed and is a black locus wood structure. The second costs \$71,881 installed and is an all steel/metal structure, however, there are concerns with this material being so close to the salt water. The third option costs \$45,109 installed and is only half the size of the original playscape. Mr. Ward will make sure that plastic sleeves are put around any part of the playscape that will be underground. Mr. Ward showed the Recreation Commission pictures of the first option. This is his top choice. It is no higher than the playscape it would be replacing.

The original playscape is still available, however, the cost is around \$90,000. Public Works has already removed the old playscape which was installed about fifteen years ago. Mr. Ward hopes that the Stonington Village Improvement Association and the Borough of Stonington will help with this project.

b. Fall Programming Updates

According to Mr. Ward, all the Fall programs are going great. Outdoor flag football is winding down. There are two more weeks then playoffs and Championships. There are 26 teams, 220 participants, 4 age groups and it is all coed. There have been a lot of compliments on this program according to Mr. Christina.

The basketball program has started registrations.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward to give an update on the vandalism down at the pavilions. Mr. Ward stated that the offender has been apprehended. There was some damage done to the porta johns owned by EZ Waste. EZ Waste put up a game camera and was able to give the police some footage showing damage being done to the porta johns. There was also some graffiti on the pavilions. It is unclear if this was done by the same offender. Public Works will be repainting the pavilions.

Commissioner McKernan commented on how great the fireplaces are now that they have been restored. They were used frequently over the summer season.

Chairman Crowley gave the Recreation Commissioners an update on the boathouse project. There is still a lot that needs to be done. Nothing has been finalized. There was some discussion about the design that was presented for the boathouse which proved unpopular, how there is little parking in the area and how the money is being raised for the project. Chairman Crowley is unsure if Recreation will be allowed to manage the park. Mr. Ward originally thought it would be ideal for a coastal town like Stonington to be able to offer a kayaking / boating program through Recreation. This would be a perfect spot to do so but plans are still unknown.

Chairman Crowley notified the Recreation Commissioners that he received an email stating that Stonington has the most beautiful facilities around. Commissioner Theadore also remarked that he has been told that Stonington has great, state-of-the-art fields. Chairman Crowley noted that this is the result of everyone working together to keep Stonington's facilities in great shape. Commissioner Norcross informed the Recreation Commission that the turf field is in excellent condition and that the track will have to be replaced before the field.

VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report

Mr. Ward showed the Recreation Commission the quote he received to seal the cracks on the basketball courts. Mr. Ward can set up a date to repair the cracks in the morning. It is necessary to complete this project before it freezes.

Commissioner Ciriello made a motion to accept the quote from Classic Seal Coating to patch the cracks on the basketball courts and also to have the work completed as soon as possible. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

The windscreens and the nets will be taken down and stored soon according to Mr. Ward.

VII. Old Business

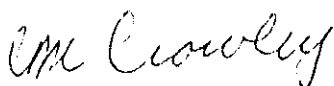
VIII. New Business

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:57 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes: Next regular monthly meeting is November 26, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman