

## Stonington Recreation Commission Regular Meeting

Monday, October 23, 2017 at 6:00PM

Human Services Community Meeting Room

### Minutes

6:04 Meeting called to order.

Present: Rich Ward, Michael Crowley, Joe McKernan, Frank Prachniak, Joe Ciriello, Jennifer Norcross, Jeff Moore, Larry Theadore

#### I. Public's Opportunity to Address the Commission

Only students present, no comments.

#### II. Secretary's Report

Larry Theadore made a motion to accept the minutes with no changes, seconded by Joe McKernan.

#### III. Finance Reports – Month ending September 2017 – Rich Ward

Rich noted that compared to last year, we are ahead of the revenue pace, and last year was great. Revenue is about 15% higher than last year.

The Program Coordinator position has not been filled yet, so that money has not been spent and will be returned at the end of the year. Six candidates will be interviewed on Wednesday, October 25, and hopefully someone will begin working on November 1.

We are on budget in general.

Joe Ciriello asked about the Facilities Intrafund. Rich explained the terminology... For example, a donation was made from the Soccer Club for field maintenance, and it will go to that line. Joe also asked about soccer expenses vs revenue; the registrations came in before the fiscal year. Joe mentioned flag football has been a great success and he hopes there have been plans made to ensure its continue success.

Larry Theadore made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Joe Ciriello.

#### IV Recreation Administrator's Report

Rich presented a summer program report. A total of 3,226 participated in programs this summer, up from 2,600 last year. Pavilion Rentals are way up. The cross country/fun run had 148 participants and Tom McCoy was at the event. Hike Stonington had 188 participants, and movie nights had no rainouts this year.

Adult sports numbers were down slightly; the adult soccer league did not run. The new Montville facility has affected programs. Softball and tennis made money.

Summer camp: There was an increase in participants, including for middle school-aged children. There were more Counselors in Training but fewer morning counselors. The ratio overall was about 1 to 6. Net was over \$18,000, a 17.6% increase. A number of scholarships were provided, but also a payment plan was offered and that helped reduce the number of scholarships needed. This next summer there will be an early bird sign-up rate, but otherwise the fee will be increased. It was noted that we could have more children involved due to our low ratio of counselors to participants, but the quality of the program would suffer.

Youth Sports Camps – About 50 more children participated than last year. The high school coaches contributed quite a lot to the summer. There were many more participants than there might have been due to their participation. Frank P. asked about the SHS youth football camp – it was run in lieu of paying fees. All the clubs market the camps and proceeds go to field maintenance.

Mike C. noted that the multi-purpose field had to be shut down in the spring briefly to combat overuse. It had bounced back well. Some patches were put in at Mystic Middle because of the grub problem. It has to take its natural course but might need more work; it was overseeded to see if that will help. He mentioned that UConn has been consulted about what to do to solve the problem.

Fall program overview – Futsal was cut back to one session, but is adding a league. Jeff M. asked about the cost of running programs at Mystic Indoor. We pay \$180 an hour to use the facility, but the programs are run by volunteers, so participants more than cover the costs.

#### V. Chairman's Report

West Pavilion grass had not been getting cut but the town has begun doing so, so another area is available for people who rent the pavilion. An estimate has been received on repairing the fireplaces, but work has not yet begun. We had been hoping for a donation, possibly from the Lions Club, but it did not materialize. The Ad-hoc Committee will work on improvements to the pavilions, for example, the horseshoe pits.

Tennis court nets – Mike asked if the school is taking care of taking them down. Rich has talked with Bill King and it should be happening soon. Joe C. mentioned that on October 22 he saw many people playing and others waiting to play. He also asked about the storage of the nets. They should be cleaned and labeled for the winter. The netting and poles should be labeled. He suggested adding signage that the courts are closed for the winter. Joe M. asked about caps for the pole-holes and Rich said there is a plan to take care of this. Mike C. mentioned he was told they should not overtighten the nets. Joe C. mentioned there is a problem with one of the nets and the height is not correct; this needs to be fixed. Rich and Mike will call the company to fix this and Bill King will be contacted to make sure the nets get washed. Rich is very pleased with how the tennis court work came out.

## VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee

Tennis courts (see above)

Spellman Park bathrooms -- repairs have been made to the men's room, and the women's room is being worked on. The work should be done this week. The outside light will be changed to a motion light; a bid has been received.

There will be an energy audit happening so we will work on lighting in the park area when that is complete.

## VII. Old Business

Piver Cup soccer tournament --

Tournament revenue was over \$13,000, including the Recreation donation. Close to 1,000 attended the tournament over the two weekends, making it a very successful event. Expenses for the event were just under \$5000. After expenses, minus the donation, revenue was \$3,597.41. The plan is to bank two years of expenses so the tournament can continue to run. Mike C. expressed that we could give them the operating expenses, but thought that additional monies beyond that should come back to Recreation to be put towards field maintenance etc. Discussion on this was tabled to the next meeting.

## VIII. New Business

Commission meeting dates for 2018 were set. Joe C. made a motion to accept the meeting dates, seconded by Larry T.

Jeff M. suggested we put a port-a-potty by the multi-purpose fields. Rich has been looking into this. Mike C. suggests we talk with Bryan Morrone about splitting the cost with SHS. Rich will ask the soccer club to consider funding it.

Motion to adjourn made by Larry T., seconded by Joe M.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
C. Michael Crowley, Chairman