

Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, September, 28 2015 at 6:00 PM  
Human Service Community Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley and Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak  
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Jennifer Norcross, Beth Quesnel, Joe Ciriello & Larry  
Theadore  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward

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

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

**II. Secretary's Report**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the June 29, 2015 Secretary's Report. Motion seconded by Chairman Crowley, motion approved. A motion was made by Vice-Chair Prachniak to approve the August 26, 2015 Secretary's Report for the Special Recreation Commission Meeting. Motion seconded by Chairman Crowley, motion approved.

**III. Budget Report  
FY 14-15 ending June 2015  
Month ending August 2015**

Recreation Administrator Ward informed the Commission members that the volleyball program was down in numbers and he is hoping that program will grow along with the softball program. Tennis had solid season. The tennis program utilized online schedule posting which worked out really well. Summer playground revenue will increase once the credit card payments show up on the report. The summer playground program ran at maximum capacity. The soccer program was great. All the basketball programs were solid. Mr. Ward is looking into why the Senior Basketball League was so low because there were a solid 15-20 people participating in the program.

The adult fitness program is losing money. Mr. Ward is looking at other options, perhaps another venue. At this time the adult fitness program is not cost effective. Chairman Crowley mentioned that if the Stonington taxpayers can participate in a similar program elsewhere for a decent price then Parks & Recreation should look into cancelling this program. The main expense is for the space and instructors.

Vice-Chair Prachniak questioned the Field Usage Fees line item. He was concerned about what the money would be used for and if it would be used by the Town to replace the "rug" on the artificial turf field when the time arrives. Mr. Ward explained that he separated the fees onto their own line in order to track the revenue generated solely by charging fees for using the fields. Chairman Crowley would like to monitor that line item and, when Mr. Ward is comfortable, have the Commission decide how to apply that revenue towards the "rug."

There was talk of possibly giving a percentage of the Field Usage Fee revenue to the Town specifically for the "rug" in case the revenue from the fees is not constant from year to year. A motion was made by Vice-Chair Prachniak to approve the 2014-2015 Year End Budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Quesnel, motion approved.

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

##### **a. Summer Program Wrap-up**

Men's softball, co-ed softball and co-ed tennis were very solid, well run programs. There were four different soccer programs running. Participation and revenue generated was huge.

The Red Sox/Yankee Game outing sold 42 out of 50 tickets. The trip was great although revenue was at a loss.

Family Movie Night was \$1000 in the red because of the expense for the rights to show and advertise the movies. Mr. Ward said that this is worth the expense. Next year it may be prudent to look into getting some help with the expense from local corporate sponsors. It was a very busy summer overall.

##### **b. Fall Program Update**

###### **1. Youth Programs**

###### **2. Middle School & High School Programs**

Flag football has good numbers. It is a good program for those that aren't ready or are unable to participate in tackle football.

Commissioner Ciriello questioned the Rec/COMO basketball arrangement. Chairman Crowley is concerned that the COMO member and non-member rates are too expensive for recreational basketball. Commissioner Quesnel has the same concern with the expense. Chairman Crowley asked if Mr. Ward could look into possibly offering recreational basketball through Parks and Recreation and not jointly with the COMO.

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that Essex Printing will be handling programs that will mail to every home in Stonington quarterly. The only expense will be for postage. Essex Printing takes care of all the advertising that pays for the cost of the programs.

#### **V. Chairman's Report**

- All Purpose Field – Stonington Director of Public Works Barbara McKrell informed Chairman Crowley that a contractor is coming in and redoing the field. The work is being overseen by Ms. McKrell and it will be completed late Fall 2015 at no additional cost.
- Softball Infield Mix – There is a mat four inches down to stabilize the infield. There is a question whether or not the infield should have eight inches of product down; however, Chairman Crowley does not want to undermine the mat that is already in place. Instead of quick-dry stone dust should be used. Clay mix puddles. Chairman Crowley will keep working on investigating the best product for the softball infield.
- Cracks on the Tennis Courts – Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward how the tennis courts are holding up. Chairman Crowley would like the courts looked at and have any issues fixed in order to preserve the courts.

**VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee**  
**a. Summer Facilities Updates / Completed Tasks**  
**b. Security Camera Proposal**

Mr. Ward is looking to install a four camera system that will capture from the softball field to the playground, the parking lot, capturing license plates and the dugout areas of the softball field. The cameras will address concerns with safety and recent ongoing vandalism issues. The images will beam back to Human Resources. The proposal came in at \$9937. Commissioner Ciriello noted that there are concerns with safety during the playground program. There is sufficient staff however it will be beneficial to have real time data in order to monitor the area and since the Recreations Commission has the funding, Commissioner Ciriello would like to see the cameras installed.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Prachniak to approve the security camera proposal. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theodore, motion approved.

Softball lights have been adjusted. The ad-hoc committee is still considering buttons to turn lights on and off at the tennis courts, however, the security cameras were a higher priority at this point.

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that local crew teams are looking to build a boat house across from the Mystic Seaport (Greenmanville Park) and that there is discussion in the works.

**VII. Old Business**

**VIII. New Business**

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Prachniak to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM. Motion seconded by Commissioner Quesnel, all in favor, motion approved.

**Next REC Commission meeting date: Monday, October 26, 2015**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
C. Michael Crowley, Chairman