

Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, October, 26 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
SHS Civic Class Students Dean Markham and Dan Scheller

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

I. Public's Opportunity to Address the Commission

II. Secretary's Report

A typographical error was noted by Commissioner Ciriello on the September 28, 2015 Secretary's Report. The error was corrected. A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the September 28, 2015 Secretary's Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Prachniak, motion approved.

**III. Budget Reports
Month ending September 2015**

A motion was made by Commissioner Quesnel to approve the September Budget. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

Fall Program Update

- 1. Youth Programs**
- 2. Middle School & High School Programs**
- 3. Adult Programs**

Mr. Ward noted that the summer playground numbers on the October 2015 Recreation Commission Program Report do not reflect the payments received from the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The Fencing Program has doubled in number of participants. There is growth in numbers with open gym basketball. According to Mr. Ward, the number of Flag Football participants is up from last year. They are looking to invest in a portable scoreboard. Co-ed Soccer is going well. There are twelve girls registered for the Girls Volleyball Clinic. The number of participants in fall programs is up and registrations for fall programs are still ongoing.

Mr. Ward and Chairman Crowley are concerned with the deficit in the adult exercise classes. The rental fee paid quarterly to the COMO is very high. In order for the program to continue, the Commission agreed that they need to find a more efficient

way to run the program. The program schedule was given to the Commissioners in order to find a more cost effective facility.

The quarterly magazine containing recreation programs offered will be mailing to every residence this winter.

Winter Plans

Plans for the winter include indoor lacrosse, basketball programs and ski trips. The ski trips to Powder Ridge will cost \$200 per ticket and includes the cost of the bus and lift tickets for all four dates.

Commissioner Ciriello questioned if Recreation does their best by the flag football program in regard to field usage. Mr. Ward stated that everything possible was done for each program and if there were openings in the schedule the spot was offered to them. Mr. Ward believes that once the all purpose field is available it will be easier to make accommodations with field usage on the schedule. School usage comes first and Recreation is second. Mr. Ward felt that if he scheduled flag football on the rec. field it would be more difficult because he did not want to keep bumping their practices. Commissioner Ciriello wanted to bring up the concern to the Commission since the flag program has many participants and is expected to grow.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley's report addressed the Facilities Ad-hoc Committee portion of the meeting, item #VI (see below).

VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee

As part of the Chairman's Report, Chairman Crowley informed the Recreation Commissioners about the Facilities Ad-hoc Committee's plans.

a. Multipurpose Field & Softball Infield Updates

Chairman Crowley has conversed with Barbara McKrell, the Director of Public Works about the multipurpose field. The project is going well. It will be completed this fall and should be available for light use in the spring. Mr. Ward noted that lacrosse has been accommodated on other fields so it should not be a problem to keep them off the multipurpose field until it takes hold.

According to Chairman Crowley, the Public Works Department is replacing the softball infield with a red clay and sand pro-grade mix. This project should be completed in a few weeks. It was discussed to possibly cover the infield during the off-season. Mr. Ward looked into the cost of a cover and roller and was given a price of approximately \$5000 with shipping. Commissioner Norcross and Commissioner Quesnel suggested looking into finding a used cover that could be more cost effective.

b. Updates on Security Cameras in Spellman Park

The four camera system should be installed by the next Recreation Commission meeting.

c. Plans: Lights, Tennis Courts

Prime Electric bid \$5700 to install and set up timing for the lights at the softball field, basketball courts and tennis courts. The details still need to be worked on regarding the timing, etc. This project is being given to the Facilities Ad-hoc Committee to continue to sort out the details.

A professional is scheduled to take a look at the tennis courts. There are some cracks and dead spots. Chairman Crowley is interested in finding out what the costs are to repair or redo the courts. Chairman Crowley also suggested that the light poles should be moved outside the courts. Commissioner Ciriello noted that the courts are a huge asset but there are many issues including moving the lights out, redoing the court, fixing the fence and replacing the wind screens. The issue was given to the Facilities Ad-hoc Committee to continue to look into.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that they will meet in 2016 on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 P.M. There are no meetings in July, August and December. A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to approve the 2016 Recreation Commission meeting calendar. Motion seconded by Commissioner Quesnel, all in favor, motion approved.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Commissioner Theodore to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKernan, all in favor, motion approved.

Next REC Commission meeting date: Monday, November 30, 2015

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman

