

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, February 26, 2018 at 6:00 PM  
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

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

**Absent:** Commissioners Joe McKernan & Larry Theadore

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. He welcomed the Stonington High School Civic Students that were in attendance.

**I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission**  
None.

**II. Secretary's Report**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the January 22, 2018 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

**III. Finance Reports – Month Ending January 2018**

**a. General Fund -10173**

**b. Special Activity -21100**

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that in the Special Activity Fund the total revenue month ending January 2018 is \$73,554 which is up 45% from last year. The expenses are showing higher than normal due to the resurfacing of the tennis courts as discussed at last month's meeting.

Mr. Ward pointed out that in the General Fund, under line item 80171 Program Expense, payroll was posted to this line item in error. The correction will be reflected in next month's budget report. Mr. Ward is also working on getting written permission to use the remaining money from the Recreation Program Coordinator's salary for programs. The salary was budgeted for the entire fiscal year but the position was not immediately filled.

According to Mr. Ward, everything is on target. Commissioner Norcross asked how Summer Camp registrations are going to which Mr. Ward replied that they are about even with this time last year. Commissioner Ciriello is impressed with the basketball program revenue. Mr. Ward noted that the COMO has forwarded their registrations to Recreation in addition to registrations coming in directly. Commissioner Ciriello stated that there has been a fantastic response to the flag football program.

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that Recreation has expanded on the flag football program from last year. Commissioner Ciriello commented on the large Soccer Program expense. Mr. Ward noted that this number will get better and is a little upside down due to the timing of the registrations. Mr. Ward stated that there are thirty to forty kids in the indoor soccer league. Chairman Crowley expressed that it is good to see the kids getting involved.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Prachniak to accept the finance reports as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ciriello, all in favor, motion approved.

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

- a. Final Winter Programs Report**
- b. Spring Programs ahead**

Mr. Ward gave the Commission a spreadsheet showing the participant totals for the Recreation programs. The totals have already exceeded last year by 3%. This is a growth to be proud of according to Mr. Ward. He also provided a spreadsheet showing the figures presented to Finance for the upcoming budget year 2018-2019. Recreation has asked for an additional \$2500 for Program Expenses and a \$600 increase for the Professional Association/Training line item. The only other increase is for salaries. Mr. Ward also provided a spreadsheet showing Recreation's revenue and expenditures over the last six years. He pointed out that one can clearly see the amount invested back into the programs over the last three years. The net revenue over expenditures for 2016-2017 was \$34,781.81. The Commission was pleased with Mr. Ward's spreadsheets and with Recreation's growth.

Mr. Ward updated the Commission regarding Planning and Zoning's approval for the Stonington Village Improvement Association to install the fitness equipment at the Borough playground.

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

Chairman Crowley reminded the Commission that he would like to keep an eye on the plans for Pawcatuck Middle. As discussed at last month's meeting, Recreation could use the facility and the fields for programs. Mr. Ward has expressed his interest, however, the plan for the property has yet to be determined.

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward to give the Commission an update on the field at Pawcatuck Middle. Mr. Ward explained that the field is in disrepair and may need to be closed this season. If the field is going to be used by Recreation in the future, it may be beneficial to invest in an irrigation system.

Mr. Ward further stated that he had the opportunity to tour Dean's Mill and West Vine Street schools. He is excited to be able to use these facilities. He may be able to expand on the age groups for the basketball program since the baskets can be lowered to accommodate younger children. At this time the construction crew will be running a line for irrigation to the field however they will not be installing an irrigation system. Mr. Ward also declared that two fields, Piver Field and Pawcatuck Middle, may not be available this season. Barbara McKrell will determine if the fields are in good condition. Mr. Ward is making a presentation to seek approval to use the field at the water treatment plant on Mary Hall Road for lacrosse this season.

Chairman Crowley informed the Commission that he has been looking into a tarp for the softball field. The tarps come in different weights. The six ounce tarp would be sufficient. It will be necessary to have seven or eight people in order to cover and uncover the infield. He asked the Commission to think about the feasibility of covering and uncovering the field, if the tarp should be left on the field year-round and where to store the tarp if it is removed. He will bring this item to Ad-hoc but he encourages the Commission to come up with a practical solution in order to protect the softball infield.

Chairman Crowley remarked that the fire pits are almost done and are coming out really nice. He suggested that the old metal grills be removed. Mr. Ward is working with the Pawcatuck Fire Department in order to determine rules and regulations for the use of the pits. Chairman Crowley also noted that the Town has been cutting trees at the Pavilions. He mentioned that the Town could remove the tar and easily put in sand for a new volleyball area near the Pavilions. He will be bringing this idea to Ad-hoc. Chairman Crowley stated that the roofs on the Pavilions are in good condition and that Ad-hoc will decide where to put the two horseshoe pits.

**VI. Facilities ad-hoc committee**

Mr. Ward will set up a meeting for Ad-hoc on Tuesday April 3, 2018 at 4 p.m.

**VII. Old Business**

None.

**VIII. New Business**

There was some discussion about the tackle program wanting to expand and include a flag football program to supplement their current program. Mr. Ward confirmed that he has a meeting with them this coming week to see what their exact plans are going forward.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

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

**Notes:**

**Next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2018.**

Respectfully Submitted,



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman