

**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, September 23, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Commissioner Joe McKernan

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

None.

II. Secretary's Report

a. Approval of minutes from June Commission meeting

Chairman Crowley identified a correction to page two, under **V. Chairman's Report**, of the drafted June 24, 2019 minutes. It should read that Mr. Ward met with Ms. Palmer in regard to the trails at Spellman Park.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to approve the June 24, 2019 Stonington Recreation Commission Secretary's Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Finance Reports

2018-2019 Year Ending Report and Month Ending August 2019

According to Mr. Ward, there was \$251,999.45 in revenue at the end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year with an expense of \$290,802.92, therefore, there was a net loss of \$38,803.47. This was due to the playground replacement costs. There is a cash balance of \$168,191.67. Mr. Ward noted that, despite the loss, Recreation is looking good with its available cash balance figure. Mr. Ward also reminded the Recreation Commissioners that the fiscal year does not correspond with how the programs run. There has been a 126% growth in revenue over the last five years. He provided the Recreation Commissioners with a Five-Year Revenue and Expenditure Summary sheet which shows the growth.

a. General Fund -10173

b. Special Activity -21100

Mr. Ward noted that, as always, Recreation is upside down with the Summer Camp program due to the fact that the fiscal year begins July 1st.

A motion was made by Commissioner Theodore to accept the finance reports as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Summer Program Report

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that there were 1370 participants in programs running June 1st to August 31st. This includes the Summer Camp program and the adult leagues. There was approximately \$164,000 in revenue. This was an increase in comparison to the summer of 2016 where there were only 1165 participants.

Mr. Ward asked Mr. Christina to comment on the Flag Football program. Mr. Christina stated that there are 235 participants compared to 222 last season, with children still on the wait list. This program serves children ages 5-14. There are four levels which break down as follows; 5-7 years old, 8-9 years old, 10-11 years old, and 12-14 years old. There are 22 high school and college age referees. The draw to Flag Football is that it is a lot of fun and less pressure than tackle football. According to Mr. Christina, other towns have reached out to see how this program is run. Flag Football revenue is \$35,000 making it the largest program after Summer Camp. The program began September 7th and runs through November.

b. EEE Mosquito Update

Mr. Ward stated that currently there is a 5:30 curfew every night. This has caused cancellations to outdoor activities and schedules have had to be adjusted. There was some discussion in regard to the upset to schedules.

c. Golf Classic Update

Julie Holland, Stonington Human Services

Ms. Holland informed the Recreation Commission of the upcoming Benefit Golf Classic to be held Monday, October 7, 2019. The tournament raises money for program scholarships and brings money directly to Stonington residents. She is reaching out to the Recreation Commission to spread the word about the tournament and get more golfers and sponsors involved in the event. There was some conversation about the format, the dinner, silent auction and raffles. Ms. Holland stressed that they are working hard to make this more of a success than last year. So far, they have 55 golfers signed up and numerous sponsors. Chairman Crowley suggests that, next year, the Recreation Commission is provided with this information

at the beginning of summer so that the Commissioners can help spread the word. There was some discussion as to why this tournament is held in the fall.

Ms. Theodore thanked Ms. Holland for coming to the meeting and noted that last year the tournament brought in over \$12,000.

V. Chairman's Report

Chairman Crowley updated the Recreation Commission on the Boathouse project. The project is at a standstill.

VI. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee Report

a. Summer Upgrades / Maintenance

According to Mr. Ward, there was a fantastic young man that helped this summer with maintaining the facility at Spellman Park. He helped keep the bathrooms clean and did anything that was asked of him. Mr. Ward noted that the shuffleboard court has been painted and the horseshoe pits and volleyball courts have been completed and are in use. Mr. Ward commented that there was some vandalism, however, the perpetrator was caught.

b. Tennis Courts

Mr. Ward got some proposals for repairing the cracks in the tennis courts; however, this will probably be the last patch job since the courts will need to be completely replaced. There are issues under the surface which will need to be addressed in the next two years. Mr. Ward will be informing Finance that this will be an upcoming project. The company Hinding quoted \$25,059.90 to repair the cracks with Riteway Crack Repair system and provides a two-year guarantee. Constantine Paving and Sealing, a partnership of Dalton, quoted \$17,842 and uses Armor Crack repair system to fill the cracks. They also provide a two-year guarantee. Commissioner Ciriello agreed that going with the lower bid from Constantine should be enough to get by until the courts need to be replaced. Chairman Crowley suggests that Mr. Ward arranges for Scot Deledda to look at the courts and also involve the school when the courts need to be completely redone. Mr. Ward is currently looking to get approvals for the repairs in order to have the cracks repaired this fall. Vice Chairman Prachniak recommended that when it is time to redo the courts the lights should be moved as well.

Commissioner Ciriello made a motion to accept the proposal from Constantine Paving and Sealing bid to resurface the imperfections on the tennis courts and to go to the Board of Finance with a request for a bid waiver since the company Constantine is under the Dalton umbrella and Dalton has completed many successful projects for the Town. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Outdoor Lights for Basketball Courts

Mr. Ward presented the Recreation Commission with a \$11,163 proposal from SNS Electric to convert the lights at the basketball courts to LED. Mr. Ward feels that if Recreation makes this

improvement to the lighting, others will be more perceptive to making additional improvements to other areas.

Commissioner Norcross made a motion to request a bid waiver from the Board of Finance in order for SNS Electric to install new lights at the basketball courts. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved.

VII. Old Business

a. Animals / Dogs in Spellman Park

Mr. Ward drafted some rules and regulations in regard to pets being on leash on Town property. There are some signs posted, however, the signs are generally ignored. State law only requires pets to be on leash when on a highway. According to Ms. Theodore, she will be meeting with Chief Stewart in the morning. Chairman Crowley noted that he will reach out to First Selectman Simmons on the matter. Mr. Ward recommends they form or create an enforceable ordinance requiring pets to be on leash at all times while in Spellman Park. He would eventually like this to be applicable to all town parks. Recreation supports a leash ordinance. Mr. Ward would like to see all pets on leash at the park, no dogs on the sidelines and he proposed creating a dog park to be located near the East Pavilion. The dog park would be completely fenced in with access to water and shade. There is plenty of parking available near the east Pavilion.

Chairman Crowley stressed that this ordinance would have to be town wide. He also feels that it will be met with resistance. Mr. Ward indicated that he is trying to give options, for instance, creating a dog park. Ms. Theodore commented that Mr. Ward's proposal will help get the word out that this is the direction that Recreation is moving, to require pets to be on leash and remove them from the sidelines. Mr. Ward will come back with the ordinance or with the wording of the proposed ordinance. Commissioner Ciriello suggested to stress that this is a safety and health issue. Mr. Ward will look into costs for creating a dog park.

b. Pawcatuck Middle School Update

According to Mr. Ward, he will be attending a meeting this Thursday with the Superintendent. He will report back to the Recreation Commission.

VIII. New Business

a. Borough Playground – SVIA contribution towards new unit

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that the Stonington Village Improvement Association wanted to purchase the pirate ship from Flemings and place it in the Borough Playground, however, that piece of equipment is not commercial grade, therefore the SVIA donated the \$2500 towards a piece of equipment that would work instead. Mr. Ward found a pirate ship that would work. He provided a photo for the Recreation Commissioners to view. This equipment will be set right in the woodchips. The Recreation Commissioners agreed that this will be a good addition to the playground.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ciriello at 7:32 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Notes:

Next meeting: October 28, 2019 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Michael Crowley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman