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**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, May 23, 2016 at 6:00 PM  
Human Services Community Meeting Room**

Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Chairman C. Michael Crowley and Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak  
Commissioners Joe McKernan & Jennifer Norcross  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward  
Scott Banks, Don Kluberanz  
David McSweeney Stonington High School Student

**Absent:** Commissioners Joe Ciriello & Larry Theodore  
Human Services Director Leanne Theodore  
Stonington Community Center Representative Kelsey Haack

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16 MAY 26 AM 8:30  
CYNTHIA LADWIG  
TOWN CLERK

Chairman Michael Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

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

Mr. Ward received a letter from Mr. George Crouse thanking the Recreation Commission and all those who were involved in organizing the tennis court dedication ceremony. Mr. Crouse appreciated everyone's effort and thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony.

Mr. Scott Banks attended the Recreation Commission meeting to see what the Recreation Commission is about. Mr. Banks is interested in joining the Commission.

**II. Secretary's Report**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Prachniak to approve the March 28, 2016 Secretary's Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKernan, all in favor, motion approved.

**III. Budget Reports – Month Ending February- March 2016**

- a. General Fund -10173
- b. Special Activity -21100

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to approve the budget report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

**IV. Recreation Administrator's Report**

- a. 15/16 winter Programs – Final Report
- b. 2016 Spring Program Updates
- c. Summer Plans

Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the Summer Playground Program is doing fantastic. There are only two more spots left. This year there is \$105,000 in revenue

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compared to \$53,914 last year. Last year at this point Recreation was in the red \$14,628, however, this year it's in the green \$2100.

The line items program expense (installing the cameras) and utilities are exceeding the budget, but not overall. Mr. Ward will adjust the budget for next year accordingly.

Chairman Crowley is looking to redo/fix the pavilions in the future. Town Highway will help where they can but Recreation will put it out to bid if necessary.

Mr. Ward presented the Summer backpack flyer that is going out in students' backpacks. Mr. Ward will also distribute them to area businesses such as Stop and Shop, McQuade's, Bouge's Alley and Mel's Creamery. The Hike Stonington program is doing great. More soccer camps have been added. Mr. Crouse is returning to instruct youth tennis lessons. An outdoor middle school girls basketball program has been added.

Mr. Crowley asked Mr. Banks if he knew of anything that he would like to see added to the many programs Recreation has in place. Mr. Banks responded that his daughter was involved in a week long theater camp which put on a play at the end. He would like to see a talent or drama program for the children. He also stated that he liked the idea of utilizing the outdoor basketball courts for the middle school girls basketball program.

**V. Update: Field Usage Proposal**

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the Field Usage Proposal with adjustments. The Board of Selectmen does not want to charge fees for Town of Stonington Residents playing organized sports for the Town. Mr. Ward will make the necessary changes to the proposal, inform the Recreation Commission of the changes and submit the amended proposal to the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Crowley confirmed with Mr. Ward that the money from Field Usage Fees will go directly to the field. Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Ward to write a letter to the Board of Finance to inform them on the Recreation Commission's plans for collecting money to pay for the field. Mr. Ward informed the Commission that he is already preparing for Fall Field Usage.

**VI. Update: STEP Off leash Area**

On April 27<sup>th</sup> the Board of Selectmen made a motion (Mr. Spellman first, Mrs. Rotella seconded) to adopt the resolution STEP Parcel-Placing management of the Stonington Off Leash Dog areas with the Human Services Department and Recreation Division. The STEP Ad-hoc Committee is working on getting rules and regulations in place. At a time to be determined, there is a plan to close the park and redo the fencing. It will take approximately 3-4 weeks to refurbish the area.

Vice Chairman Prachniak asked what the Recreation Commissions involvement will be with the dog park. Mr. Ward will be responsible to check on the park, like he does with all other parks in Town. Mr. Ward will also be handling the registrations, which will be done online, like he does with other programs. This park will be self-policing. The STEP Committee will hand over all the rules, regulations and recommendations to Recreation. The upkeep will be

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rolled into Recreation's budget. According to Mr. Kluberanz the end game is to make this a regulated dog park. There is also the possibility of opening another dog park in Town.

No Action.

**VII. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Crowley informed the Commission that plans are moving forward with the dog park and it will be put in next year's budget. Recreation is responsible for the upkeep of the park. The ACO will cover any dog/dog or dog/person bite issues.

**VIII. Facilities Ad-hoc Committee**

Chairman Crowley would like to start up the Ad-hoc Committee again. Mr. Ward will be sending an email out to Committee members. Commissioner McKernan would like to address the condition of the lamp posts, they need painting. Mr. Ward informed the Commission that the new windscreens have been installed. He is working with Ms. Theodore to compose a memo of understanding so Recreation can take care of windscreen issues/maintenance. Chairman Crowley stated there is some money to replace the picnic tables at the pavilion and playground with ADA rated picnic tables (not constructed out of wood).

**IX. Old Business**

**X. New Business**

**XI. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner McKernan at 7:01 pm. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Note: Next month's meeting Monday, June 27, 2016.**

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman