

**Stonington Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, October 27, 2014 at 6:00 PM  
Human Services Community Room**

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley and Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak  
Commissioners Joe McKernan, Jennifer Norcross,  
Beth Quesnel & Larry Theadore  
Human Services Manager Leanne Theodore  
Absent: Commissioner Joe Ciriello

I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission

II. Secretary's Report

Budget Report should read:

III. Budget Report

a. General Fund

A motion was made by Commissioner Quesnel to approve the General Fund Budget Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

Other Business should read:

VII. Other Business

b. Athletic Field Task Force Update

- Lower fields affected by lack of rain

Upon the above revisions, a motion was made by Commissioner Theadore to approve the Secretary's Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKernan, all in favor, motion approved.

III. Budget Report

a. General Fund

b. Special Activity

A motion was made by Commissioner Quesnel to approve the General Fund Budget Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Theadore, all in favor, motion approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to approve the Special Activity Budget Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Quesnel, all in favor, motion approved.

IV. Communications

V. Programming

- a. Summer Re-Cap
- b. Fall Offerings

- c. Volleyball - discussion regarding decline in number of participating teams.

Commissioner Quesnel stated that she has heard loss of teams is due to poor league supervision. Human Services Manager Leanne Theodore stated that there is a captain's meeting scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>, and she hopes to have all present provide feedback so that she can work with all involved to rebuild the program.

VI. Recreation Administrator's Report

Public hearing took place October 8<sup>th</sup> regarding field usage fees. Not as many present as expected; see Other Business.

VII. Other Business

- a. Recreation Administrator Position
- b. Athletic Field Task Force Update

Public meeting held on October 8<sup>th</sup>

Chair Crowley stated the Commission was deceived at the meeting, since the Commission was directed to come up with a fee schedule and attended the meeting to discuss, only to find out First Selectman Haberek & Selectman Crouse were not going to be supportive, even though all prior discussions & correspondence promoted setting up the fee schedule; see email documentation submitted with minutes.

Discussion ensued regarding fee's; charging a flat fee per child does not turn out to be equitable when looking at the number of hours the fields are utilized by some organizations. When comparing to other towns, many don't charge fees, however they also have more fields. Groton is similar, and currently reviewing fees as well.

Chair Crowley stated there is a lot of work ahead; that's why we need to get the Recreation Administrator hired as soon as possible.

Human Services Manager Leanne Theodore stated that there has been 6 Recreation Administrators on staff within the past 11 years.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

Chair Crowley discussed past equipment purchases, and stated that the Commission needs to continue to work on budgeting for future needs. Volleyball equipment needs to be upgraded, lights on the basketball court need to be fixed, tennis court fencing needs to be looked at and pavilions could use a lot of upgrades, and there are many other smaller projects as well.

Human Services Manager Leanne Theodore stated that the Commission needs to keep in mind that even if a program is generating revenue, much of the money needs to be reinvested in the program for equipment and other program needs.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Commissioner Theadore to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Quesnel, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:11PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Michael Crowley".

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman

**Leanne D. Theodore**

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**From:** Joseph M. Mendonca  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2014 9:48 PM  
**To:** Leanne D. Theodore  
**Subject:** FW: Fees

**Importance:** High

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**From:** Edward Haberek  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2014 10:06 AM  
**To:** Riley, Van; Bryan Morrone; Alisa Morrison; Joseph M. Mendonca  
**Cc:** Frank Todisco; Mike Crowley; Joseph M. Mendonca; Sandy Grimes ([sgrimes13@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sgrimes13@sbcglobal.net)); John OBrien; Maryanna Stevens  
**Subject:** RE: Fees

That sounds fine. The Recreation Commission will have their advisory recommendation done by end of month. I will also say that the Board of Finance members adamantly stated to me at the end of last meeting, that all fees collected from usage will go towards *all weather turf replacement* and will go to CIP line item for this. They said they will not allow the replacement carpet to go unfunded and end up like the recent roof issue. So however the fee standards are created, use of the fees will go to this one area. \$30,000 has been put in CIP for carpet replacement this year.

Lastly, I would appreciate if BOE positions could come from the Chair. I think when only several Board members get involved it excludes other and consensus on an issue should come from whole board. Thank you

**Edward Haberek Jr.**  
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<http://ehaberek.wordpress.com/> (Blog)

**From:** Riley, Van [<mailto:vriley@stoningtonschools.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2014 9:27 AM  
**To:** Edward Haberek; Bryan Morrone; Alisa Morrison; Joseph M. Mendonca  
**Cc:** Frank Todisco  
**Subject:** Fees

I look forward to working collaboratively with the town and recreation department in creating a policy concerning the establishment, collection, and use of field use fees. I have discussed this issue with Bryan and the direction from our group at our last meeting prior to the election still stands as far as I am concerned. At that time we decided to collect information from other districts and to meet as a group after the election, this spring, to set the fees and when they would go into effect. Since this seems to be a hot issue, perhaps we can meet in the next few weeks. I would ask Bryan and Joe to set up a meeting time. Thank you...