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**Stonington Recreation Commission Meeting**  
**Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM**  
**Human Services – Community Room**  
**166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck**

Draft Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Chairman C. Michael Crowley  
Commissioners Jennifer Norcross, Larry Theadore, Jeff Moore & Stephanie Hartell  
Recreation Administrator Richard Ward  
Recreation Program Coordinator Pete Christina

**Absent:** Commissioner Ben Kepple

**I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

**II. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission**

**III. Secretary's Report**

**a. Approval of minutes from March 2024 Commission meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Moore to approve the Regular Meeting, March 25, 2024 as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Norcross, all in favor, motion approved.

**IV. Recreation Administrator's Report**

**a. Spring / Summer Program Update**

Mr. Ward provided the Recreation Commission with an update on the number of enrolled participants. There are 861 total enrolled which is an increase of 24% from this past month. He will be adding spots for Summer Camp and will be able to accommodate some of those currently on the waitlist. Mr. Ward will be increasing the number of participants from 150 to 175. He is able to do this since they had a very good response for counselor positions. There are 23 counselors returning from last year. He is looking to hire a total of 23 counselors.

Mr. Ward commented that they added a girl's high school summer basketball league. The Connecticut Sun is sponsoring the league. Mr. Ward noted that he is seeing pickleball beginning to peak. He will look at the trend but also mentioned that it may be time to introduce more intermediate classes as opposed to beginner pickleball. The tennis program is also bouncing back. According to Mr. Ward, the numbers are looking good and they will continue to grow.

Mr. Ward will be purchasing a new, barn style shed for tennis storage. The cost is \$2600 delivered. He still needs to go through Planning & Zoning.

Mr. Christina provided a picture of a bench and suggested a location for it for Coach McKernan. The area is located near the Desmond arch near the paved circle. There was some further discussion about the type of bench, costs associated with the purchase and install, the location and possible ceremony.

**V. Finance Reports**

**a. General Fund -10173**

Mr. Ward did not provide a copy; however, he noted that the numbers are on target.

**b. Special Activity -21100**

Mr. Ward stated that the total revenue is \$180,290, the total expenses are \$290,525 and the cash balance is \$135,127.

**c. Disc Golf Fund -21102**

Mr. Ward noted that they are recruiting for sponsorships. They purchased ten new goals. He stated that they are at a negative \$2830.91 revenue, however, once sponsors are obtained, this account will be back in the black. There were 227 rounds played in the month of March according to the Udisc app. These are great numbers even with the poor weather. Mr. Christina will provide Commissioner Theadore with a list of the current sponsors.

**VI. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Crowley suggested that the area behind the third base dugout be cleaned out. It looks disorganized. Mr. Christina stated that he will work on this. There were some suggestions and discussion in regard to storage sheds at different locations in Spellman Park for various sports. There was some further discussion about the press box. Chairman Crowley also suggested getting a tarp for the softball field. They will need to discuss the quality of the tarp, who will be responsible for taking it on and off the field and where to store it.

**VII. Old Business**

**a. Update on Basketball Courts for Town Dock Area**

Mr. Ward is looking to meet with the stakeholders and map out the proposed area and get feedback. He believes this project will cost approximately \$70,000 to complete. The preferable site is the one near the playground.

Mr. Ward noted that he was approached by the Warden and Burgess and they want to enclose the porta-potty area. There was some discussion about who would be responsible for the costs associated with this project.

**b. Update Spellman Park Master Plan**

Mr. Ward informed the Recreation Commission that he met with Chad Frost and set up a meeting with the First Selectman. They are working on setting up a public meeting to get feedback. Mr. Ward commented the he was pleasantly surprised to see what could fit in Spellman Park. They will also look into incorporating the Circus Lot project. This area requires a lot of clean up.

**VIII. New Business**

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Theadore at 6:37 P.M. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moore, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

**Next Scheduled Meeting is Monday, May 20, 2024 (note this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Month of the month due to the Memorial Day holiday) 6:00pm at Stonington Human Services**

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Michael Crowley, Chairman