

**STONINGTON RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 26, 2006
7:00 PM AT STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman, C. Michael Crowley; Vice President, Frank Prachniak, Jr.; Board Members: Beth Quesnel, George Thayer; Human Services Director, Beth-Ann Stewart and Recreation Director, Sharon Bousquet

Absent: Board Members, Mark LoPresto, Larry Theadore and Paulla Solar

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Crowley at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Public's Opportunity to Address the Commission

NA

- 2) Approval of Minutes for March 27, 2006 Meeting

A motion was made by George Thayer and seconded by Beth Quesnel to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2006 meeting.

- 3) Budget Report

A motion was made by George Thayer and seconded by Frank Prachniak, Jr. to approve the budget report.

- 4) Communications

NA

- 5) Old Business

Light Policy

Sharon Bousquet stated that she researched the potential cost of summer evening field lighting and it equaled ~ \$972. The budget is already in place and only \$1,000 remains. Beth Stewart suggested press releasing the lighting and ask interested residents to call Human Services. She also suggested utilizing the surveymonkey.com program to track resident interest via a survey format. The Human Services marquee could also be used for advertising.

Youth Basketball

Sharon Bousquet stated that she had a positive meeting with Tim at Stonington Como. They discussed having an instructional program for the girls in grades 3-4 to provide a beneficial foundation for the sport, rather than just playing games. Michael Crowley suggested taking a look at the boy's league and possibly doing the same thing. Tim had told Sharon that the boy's league has more skill success at this time and would like to start with the girl's league.

Finance Meeting

Michael Crowley stated that the last meeting went well, but charging more for programs may become an issue. The referendum is scheduled for May 2nd.

6) New Business

Mad Science/Vacation Camp Surveys

Survey results were distributed to the Commission. The Mad Science Camp complaint was questioned. Sharon Bousquet stated that she was unsure if all criteria for the camp were met, but overall the camp was well received. Michael Crowley stated that the Recreation needs to ensure service to the general public (low income families included). Scholarships are not available for contracted camps/programs; all Human Services' run programs have sliding fee scales. Sharon Bousquet will look at budget to see if funds are available to use towards scholarships (this would mean the fees would slightly increase). Beth Stewart, Lacey Bartlett and Sharon met on this topic (charge increased fee, but use Human Services staff). Beth Stewart discussed issues with the contracted staff – only one staff, rather than two; left the Community Room messy, etc. George Thayer stated that we need to closely watch contracted programs to protect Stonington Recreation's reputation.

Summer Leagues

Golf – Sharon Bousquet stated that 12 teams (2 new this year) have signed up.

Softball – Captain's meeting took place (no complaints regarding the 3 proposals). Sharon stated that they voted to have 2 rounds vs. 3. Sponsor fees will stay the same this year. 10 teams have signed up; McQuade's Team will not be returning this year; 1 new team came on board.

Human Services Summer Program Flyer – Distributed to Commission.

Softball Lights

Sharon discussed her concerns with non-staff entering the powerhouse to turn on lights. Sharon met with Beth Stewart to discuss liability issues surrounding this. Beth Stewart will look into this with CIRMA. Michael Crowley discussed an osprey nest that may become problematic again at the field.

7) Programs

Discussed in "New Business"

8) Director's Report

Sharon Bousquet stated that the Highway Department is in the process of grading and mulching the playgrounds. She stated that they have been doing a great job with this and expressed the Department's gratitude. The seasonal Maintenance employees will begin the 2nd week in May.

9) Other Business

Ice Rink – The rink needs to be sealed. Beth Stewart suggested a community service volunteer (if available) may be able to complete this task.

10) Chariman's Comments

Michael Crowley discussed hiring a PT Maintenance worker, once Sharon's position was voted in and asked for the Commission's input. Problems with the softball field were also discussed (water run-off).

11) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by George Thayer and seconded by Frank Prachniak, Jr. to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leanne DiGangi
Secretary