

Stonington Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 27, 2010 at 6:00 PM
Human Services Room

Present: Chairman C. Michael Crowley; Vice-Chair Frank Prachniak
Commissioners: Joe Ciriello, Joe McKernan, Beth Quensel,
Paula Solar and Larry Theadore
Recreation Administrator Joseph Mendonca, Jr.

- I. Publics' Opportunity to Address the Commission
No comments.

- II. Secretary's Report
A motion was made by Commissioner Quensel to accept the Secretaries Report. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Prachniak and approved.

- III. Budget Report
 - a. General Fund
 - b. Special Activity

Commissioner Ciriello questioned if a pay scale is available to ensure fees & cost structures are similar to area recreation programs. Administrator Mendonca stated there are usually comparable fees across the region, and he does have a process for reviewing costs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ciriello to accept the budget reports. Motion seconded by Commissioner Quensel and approved.

- IV. Communications
None

- V. Summer Programs - Recap
 - Summer Camp
 - Special Events
 - Adult Fitness
 - Adult League/ Open Run

- VI. Fall Programs- Update
 - a. *Started in September*
 - Youth Clinics/Open Gym
 - Adult Fitness
 - b. *Coming in October*
 - Adult League/ Open Run

VII. Recreation Administrator's Report

a. Program Surveys

Surveys sent to households for review of summer programs. Examples presented from Playground and Softball.

b. Stonington School's Facilities Practice Field Analysis

A report entitled "Stonington School's Facilities Practice Field Analysis" was prepared by Ken Donovan, Facilities Manager for Stonington Public Schools, at the request of the Board of Education. The request by the Board of Education was the result of a complaint by the parent of a student that participates in a Lacrosse program that is not affiliated with the school system, after the request by the Lacrosse program to use the football field for practice was denied. The analysis was then insisted upon by the parent, however the Recreation Commission and the Recreation Administrator for the Town were not made aware of, nor did they have input in, the preparation of the practice field analysis which includes fields that are not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. Potential sites identified by the analysis include property by the town dock, on the side of Pawcatuck Middle School, the landfill, and the sewer plant in Pawcatuck.

Administrator Mendonca met with John Phetteplace, Director of Solid Waste for the Town, regarding the landfill space; there is potential, however there is a long list of tests to perform before the land is useable. Chair Crowley suggested that due to the shortage of fields, this may be the time to look into an Astroturf field, and requested Administrator Mendonca look into the cost. Administrator Mendonca stated there may be a benefit to towns working together to reduce the cost, and possible funding of costs between the school and the Town.

Commissioner Ciriello questioned authority of Board of Education to review fields that are not managed by the school system, and believes as a professional courtesy the Recreation Administrator of the Town should be included in discussions. Administrator Mendonca stated he would like to be included in any follow-up review of the practice field analysis, however Chair Crowley stated he does not believe the Commission should partner with school system, and requested a motion that the Commission adopt a "wait and see" policy in relation to the school's practice field analysis.

Commissioner Ciriello made a motion that the Recreation Commission agree to take a "wait and see" policy in relation to the school's practice field analysis. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Prachniak and approved.

V. Other Business

a. Updates/Future Projects Sub Committees Progress

- Hailey's Way Playground
The Town received \$8K back from FIMA for Hailey's Way Playground, which will be used for lining & surfacing. In addition, Administrator Mendonca will look for a grant to fund new piece of equipment, and recommends removal of the tall swing and professional power cleaning of equipment.
- Como Basketball Partnership
The Stonington Community Center hired a new Recreation Director, Jason Mello. Administrator Mendonca feels confident there is an improved working relationship with the Como, and is looking forward to partnering for the winter basketball program.
- Walking Exercise Trail
Chair Ciriello will meet with Ken Donovan to request assistance in preparing proposal.
- Beach Volleyball Courts
Administrator Mendonca had discussion with Director of Public Works, Joe Bragaw, regarding various concerns with installing beach volleyball courts, including drainage. Director Bragaw recommended hiring an outside contractor to dig out the fields, and stated that the Town could take over the project after that. Administrator Mendonca will gather costs and present to Commission at the October meeting.
- Black Bear Studios
Administrator Mendonca pooled the Commission to see if any members had a positive relationship with a glass manufacturer, as he is looking into installing wall mirrors at Black Bear Studios, where many recreation classes take place. Commissioner Theodore will provide Administrator Mendonca with the name of a vendor.

VI. Chairman's Comments

None

VII. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Commissioner McKernan to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Quensel and approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:07PM.

Respectfully Submitted



C. Michael Crowley, Chairman