



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

Jim Caterbone, Co-Chair Marion McGarry, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, January 29, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chair Caterbone, Co-Chair McGarry and Committee Member Reps. Briscoe, DePina, Mahoney and Pratt. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Giordano, Heaphy and Ryan. Also present were Robert Tyska, Golf Commission; Michael Sullivan, E. Gaynor Brennan and Mike Papa (see the attached [sign-in sheet](#)).

Co-Chair Caterbone called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PR29.023	RESOLUTION and Public Hearing; approving 2015 season rate increases for E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Course. 01/07/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin	Approved 7-0-0

Mr. Sullivan explained that the Commission voted to increase all the fees by \$2 in order to address the addition of \$50,000 of post-employment benefits to the budget, as well as a claw-back for the past 3 years for post-employment benefits, resulting in a budget increase of \$100,000 per year for the next 3 years. He noted that E. Gaynor Brennan has been self-sufficient for the past 15 years.

Co-Chair Caterbone opened the public hearing. Mr. Papa discussed the need to improve soil structure and manage the environment. There being no other members of the public wishing to speak, Co-Chair Caterbone closed the public hearing.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Tyska stated that:

- They learned of this increase last year but did not want to raise rates in the middle of the year
- They will cover the additional \$20,000 of the cost by cutting expenses
- Sterling Farms pays the City approximately \$300,000 each year which goes into the general fund; they would like some of this money to go toward golf
- E. Gaynor Brennan's rates are traditionally lower than the rates at Sterling Farms

- If they tried to realize the extra funds solely on the backs of non-residents they might lose non-residents; they don't have the ability to offer specials; non-residents are 25% of their play time but 33% of their revenue
- They do not think this increase will chase away golfers
- They have put over \$1 million into the course in the last 5 years
- The increase is in keeping with other courses in the area and Sterling Farms

Rep. Caterbone will speak to members of the administration to learn more about why the post-employment costs were allocated and whether the City can apply some of the revenue from Sterling Farms to E. Gaynor Brennan.

A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote (Reps. Caterbone, McGarry, Briscoe, DePina, Mahoney and Pratt in favor.)

Co-Chair Caterbone adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Caterbone, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).