



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

Dennis Mahoney, Co-Chair Marion McGarry, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, September 17, 2018
Time: 7:30 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-Chairs McGarry and Mahoney, and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, Stella and Wallace. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Pratt, Saftic and Watkins. Also present were Reps. Di Costanzo, Roqueta, Sherwood and Summerville; Laurie Albano, Recreation; Kevin Murray, Parks/Facilities; Peter Gould, Parks Police Officer; Capt. Thomas Lombardo, SPD; Ted Jankowski, PSHW Director; David Winston, P&R Commission; Bonnie Adams, retired Parks Police Officer; and two members of the public.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PR30.007	RESOLUTION <u>and public hearing</u> ; Approving Fee Schedule for Terry Conners Ice Rink. 04/30/18 – Submitted by Laurie Albano 05/14/18 – Moved to Pending 08/21/18 – Approved by Committee 6-0-0 09/04/18 – Approved for publication	Approved 7-0-0

Co-Chair McGarry called the meeting to order at 7:36pm.

Co-Chair McGarry opened the public hearing at 7:36pm. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. McGarry, Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, and Stella favor).

2. PR30.008	RESOLUTION <u>and approval of public hearing</u> ; Establishing Fees for Summer Camp Programs. 04/30/18 – Submitted by Laurie Albano 05/14/18 – Moved to Pending 08/21/18 – Held in Committee 6-0-0	Failed 3-3-1
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¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:15 Part 1

² Video Time Stamp 00:01:14 Part 1

Ms. Albano distributed the [attached](#) summary of camp revenue and attendance from last summer. She explained the following:

- These are fee-supported programs.
- Subsidy from the Transit District for buses has almost been eliminated.
- The number of special education aides required has risen.
- Approximately half of the free/reduced lunch fee student costs were subsidized by Person-to-Person.
- The camps are in demand and all camps sold out this past summer.
- Opening the Star Center helped to reduce the size of the waiting list.
- It has been about five years since camp fees have been raised.

There was a brief discussion, during which the following points were made:

- To some families, increased fees could be prohibitive, especially with multiple children.
- These camps are much less expensive than private camps and the extra fees could go towards fixing and replacing broken games and equipment.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 3-3-1 (Reps. Aquila, Giordano and Matherne in favor; Reps. Mahoney, de la Cruz and Stella opposed; and Rep. McGarry abstaining).

- ³3. PR30.012 REVIEW; Stamford Park Police Status and Contract. **Held 6-0-0**
08/08/18 – Submitted by Reps. McGarry, Matherne, Aquila, Roqueta, Pratt and Sherwood
08/21/18 – Held in Committee 6-0-0

The following was stated/discussed:

- ⁴The SPD conducted an investigation into how many citations were issued last June by park police. It was determined the citations were not correctly entered in the Records Management System (RMS) over the span of several years. The citations were entered correctly into the court system, so no revenue was lost. It was a personnel matter that has been dealt with and it should not happen again.
- ⁵Ms. Adams discussed her experience as a former park police officer, and the 1997 transfer of park police from the P&R Dept. to the SPD. She believes that the SPD has wanted to get rid of the park police ever since the initial transfer.
- ⁶Officer Gould concurred with most of what Ms. Adams stated about the transfer, and noted the park police were transferred back to the P&R Dept. in 2003. The park police officers do administrative work and low level enforcement that the regular SPD officers do not. The dual relationship between the P&R Dept. and SPD is important, and the park police program is an important asset to the City.

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:16:12 Part 1

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 00:18:09 Part 1

⁵ Video Time Stamp: 00:34:30 Part 1

⁶ Video Time Stamp: 00:55:15 Part 1

- In 2008 there was an issue with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) access for park police. During an audit, someone told the FBI that the park police are not police officers. Officer Gould resolved the situation by sending the State the Charter.
- The number of park police officers has gone from 30 to two. This makes it unclear if the City Administration does value them. Additional money has not yet been requested by the Administration.
- The proposed budget had monies for existing park police officers, and monies put aside for different options; the budgets cuts have taken away these options.
- In 2016 the SPD reduced the hours of the park police. Currently there is no coverage Monday thru Thursday, some coverage Friday thru Sunday, and the SPD wants to reduce the hours in the winter. Park police are very active in the winter, and their presence is needed.
- The SPD is not looking to cut hours. Park police officers would be utilized more if they were available.
- Park police officers are part-time positions, under a different union from the SPD officers.
- Many police officers are retiring this year and the SPD is asking if any want to become park police officers.

Mr. Jankowski briefly reviewed the [attached](#) park policing plan. He stated that currently the weekly hours for peak season for the two park police officers are 24 and 29 hours. The SPD officers do daily patrols in the parks, and these account for 12 percent of all daily patrols in the City.

Mr. Gould stated that he has gone through full police academy training.

There was extensive committee member discussion of this item which is available on the video.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. McGarry, Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, and Stella favor).

Co-Chair McGarry adjourned the meeting at 10:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion McGarry, Co-Chair

This meeting is on video ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#))