



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

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

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, November 20, 2018
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Mahoney and McGarry, and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, Pratt, Saftic, and Watkins. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Stella and Wallace. Also present were Reps. Lion and Sherwood; David Winston, Parks & Recreation Commission; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety; Kathryn Emmett, Law Department; Deborah Billington, Stamford Neighborhood Coalition; and Ginger Winston.

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

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PR30.008	RESOLUTION <u>and 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 09/17/18 – Failed in Committee 3-3-1 10/01/18 – Held by Full Board 10/25/18 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 6-0-0	Approved 8-0-0

Co-Chair Mahoney opened the Public Hearing. There being no one from the public wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, McGarry, Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, Pratt and Watkins in favor).

2. PR30.012	REVIEW; Stamford Park Police Status and Contract. 08/08/18 – Submitted by Reps. McGarry, Matherne, Aquila, Roqueta, Pratt and Sherwood 08/21/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee 6-0-0 09/17/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee 6-0-0 10/25/18 – Report Made and Held	Report Made and Held
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¹Ms. Emmett discussed the legal opinion from the Law Department. The resolution from the Parks & Recreation Commission suggests it has the authority to determine staff levels. It is the opinion of the Law Department that the Parks & Recreation Commission does not have the authority to issue enforceable rules and regulations concerning staffing and personnel in the City parks. The Parks & Recreation Commission authority centers more on the use and operations of the parks.

²Mr. Jankowski responded to some comments made at the last Committee meeting regarding the ability and integrity of the police chiefs. He said that they have taken an oath and do an excellent job of keeping the city and parks safe. There are many quality of life issues that have been brought to his attention. The new parks police enforcement unit was developed as a way to resolve most of these quality of life concerns in the City Parks.

³ Mr. Winston explained the ideas behind the proposed [resolution](#). It is an attempt to by the Parks & Recreation Commission to manage the regulations as they apply to the parks. The resolution has outlined the regulatory structure, who takes care of it, and making sure the regulations get enforced. He said the Commission is proposing rules, not attempting to legislate.

There was lengthy discussion on this issue. Some key points and questions brought up:

- Police officers are under the authority of the Police Chief and this is a requirement of the State. There are liability issues regarding armed parks police officers being supervised by a civilian employee.
- The Charter does not give the BOR authority over most personnel and staffing, with some exceptions, such as approving directors.
- There will be three dedicated regular police officers in the new parks police enforcement unit, plus the two current parks police officers, plus Stamford Police Dept. (SPD) patrol officers supplementing these.
- There is currently an agreement between the City and UAW that parks police fall under the SPD. Mr. Jankowski will get the Committee a copy of the agreement.
- Mr. Jankowski will find out if the agreement between the City and the UAW has to be approved by the BOR.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:01:45 Part 1

² Video Time Stamp: 01:05:10 Part 1

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:28:54 Part 2

- The Committee asked that Ms. Emmett be prepared with answers to the following at the next meeting: What can the BOR do as it relates to this issue, in light of overwhelming public support for maintenance of a parks police unit? What power does the BOR have to pass ordinances, or amendments to ordinances, relating to this issue?
- Rep. Sherwood requested a legal opinion regarding what the BOR can do to keep the current parks police program.
- Does the BOR have any ability to impact the administration to compromise in order to maintain a parks police presence in a way that does not impede upon the parks police ability to do their work by putting them directly under the SPD?
- There are concerns that the new parks police enforcement unit will be one of the first things cut if the budget is cut.
- Parks police officers are not separate from the regular SPD officers, but regular officers have different requirements and certifications.
- Parks police used to report to the Parks & Facilities Manager. Contractually they are now under the SPD, and the Parks & Facilities Manager is the liaison.
- Mr. Jankowski will check with the Law department regarding the legality of the budget for parks police coming under the Operations Department.
- The Parks & Recreation Commission is concerned that the parks might not be the top priority for the regular officers.

Co-Chair Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Mahoney, Co-Chair

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