



## ***Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives***

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

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Republican Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center,  
888 Washington Boulevard

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chair Mahoney, Co-Chair McGarry and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne and Watkins. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Pratt, Stella, Saftic and Wallace. Also present were Reps. Di Costanzo, McMullen, Sherwood and Zelinsky; Kathryn Emmett, Corp. Counsel; Ted Jankowski, Direct of Safety & Public Health; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation; Michael Sullivan, Brennan Golf Course Superintendent; Paul Grillo, Executive Director of Sterling Farms; Robert Tyska and Michael Briscoe, Stamford Golf Commission; John Rovegno and David Winston, Parks and Recreation Commission; Deborah Billington, Stamford Neighborhood Coalition; Kindrea Walston, and several members of the public.

Co-Chair Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
11. <a href="#">PR30.015</a>	RESOLUTION <u>and public hearing</u> ; Increasing the Golf Permit Fee rate. 11/30/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 12/18/18 – No Action Taken 01/07/18 – Approved for Public Hearing by Full Board	<b>Approved 7-0-0</b>

Co-Chair Mahoney opened the public hearing. Four members of the public spoke, and the public hearing was then closed. Public comments included that there should be more online promotions, junior numbers have gone down, online reviews for Brennan are mostly negative, and additional revenue should go to maintaining the golf courses.

There was discussion on this item.

---

<sup>1</sup> Video time stamp: 00:00:42 Part 1

- Sterling Golf Course: all monies taken in go directly back to facility. An 11% rent is paid to the City, all else goes back into golf course.
- Brennan Golf Course: it is an enterprise fund, part of City budget but acts as a business, does not receive tax dollars. All monies taken in go back into the golf course fund.
- All permit revenues, regardless of which course, are split 58% Sterling, 42% Brennan. Sterling gives back 11% as rent to the City.

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

- <sup>2</sup>2. [PR30.009](#) RESOLUTION and public hearing; Approving Fees **Approved as Amended 7-0-0**  
 for Use of Ballfields.  
 04/30/18 – Submitted by Laurie Albano  
 05/14/18 – Moved to Pending  
 12/18/18 – No Action Taken  
 01/07/18 – Approved for Public Hearing by Full Board

Co-Chair Mahoney opened the public hearing. There being no members of the public wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed. There was discussion on this item.

- The fees in this resolution are for adult tournaments and field use only, not youth teams.
- The schedules are fairly tight, there are still some unsanctioned out of town teams playing, but not that many.
- There is a field permit attendant who periodically makes sure the fields are being used properly.
- Increased fees will not likely deter teams because it remains a good value.
- Leone and West Beach artificial turf fields are reaching the end of life span.
- Charity increase would be approximately \$600 additional revenue per year.
- Charity tournaments are usually fundraisers for hardship and perpetual memorial scholarships.
- There should be a record of the fees and where exactly they are going.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to keep Charity fees and Charity light fees at the current levels by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, McGarry, Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne and Watkins in favor).

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

---

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:22:17 Part 1

- <sup>3</sup>3. [PR30.012](#) REVIEW; Stamford Park Police Status and Contract. **Report Made & Held 7-0-0**  
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  
11/20/18 – Report Made & Held  
12/18/18 – Held in Committee

There was discussion on this item.

- Ms. Emmett stated the Charter puts the running of the parks under the Office of Operations and Superintendent of Parks, and the authority of public safety under the SPD. BOR can do things in coordination with other branches of government and other charter created powers.
- Mr. Jankowski stated proactive policing in parks has increased by 22% and serious crime has decreased by 41%. He will send the Committee the report, and the public safety analyst will come to the next P&R Committee Meeting to explain the current statistics.
- Mr. Winston stated the statistics do not reflect park regulations. The P&R Commission's concern is how to keep the budget line item safe, and feels that would be best under the Operations Dept.
- Ms. Billington read the [attached](#) statement on behalf of the Stamford Neighborhood Coalition, in support of keeping the parks police under Operations.
- There are concerns that the parks police will not be treated fairly if under the authority of the SPD.
- The new enforcement unit is set to start April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Since there has been confusion with conflicting information from different parties involved, the Committee requests the following for clarity:

- That the Administration and the P&R Commission gets the Committee statements of what each determines is the correct information.
- That the P&R Commission goes through its proposed resolution to determine if anything outlined might appropriately and reasonably be included in the P&R rules and regulations.

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

- <sup>4</sup>4. PR30.016 REVIEW; Status of the Closing of Kosciuszko Park. **Report Made & Held 7-0-0**  
12/05/18 – Submitted by Rep. McGarry  
12/18/18 – Held in Committee

There was discussion on this item.

- The park is closed during school hours due to the emergency situation of Westover School being temporarily transferred to the property.

---

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:43:10 Part 1

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:17:45 Part 2

- The two main issues are separating outside adults from the children, and traffic safety during drop off and pick up.
- Mr. Jankowski, Mr. McGrath and several other departments are in the process of figuring out the best solution for both residents and the safety of the students.
- All City parks adjacent to schools are closed during schools hours.
- A member of the public, Chris Woodside spoke in opposition of closing the park.
- Suggestions included increasing parks patrol in the park, and closing off the playground area from the rest of the park.

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

<sup>5</sup>Invitee Ms. Walston spoke about the school bus congestion on the streets surrounding the park and distributed the [attached](#).

<p><sup>6</sup>5. <a href="#">PR30.014</a> REVIEW; Parks Policy As It Relates To Signage in the Parks.          10/02/18 – Submitted by Rep. Mahoney          10/25/18 – Report Made and Held          11/13/18 – Moved to Pending</p>	<p><b>Report Made &amp; Held 7-0-0</b></p>
--	--

Mr. Rovegno reviewed the [attached](#) proposed policy framework. There was discussion on this item.

- The purpose of the framework is to create a uniform policy relating to signage.
- There are two different types of signage: gifts, (trees, plaques, memorial benches) and Sponsorship, (more commercial in its nature).
- The key elements are type, location, size and content.
- Application process will be done on a case by case basis.
- There are several factors involved such as appropriateness, previous agreements with neighborhoods, content and aesthetics.
- Other sports programs will now have the opportunity for signage as baseball has always had.
- Sponsorship is very diverse and potentially can involve large amounts of money.

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

Co-Chair Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 10:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Mahoney, Co-Chair

This meeting is on video ([Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#)).

---

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp: 01:23:15 Part 2

<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp: 01:32:32 Part 2