



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

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

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2019

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 Mahoney and Committee Member Reps. de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, Saftic, Stella, and Watkins. Absent or excused were Co-Chair McGarry and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, Pratt, and Wallace. Also present were Reps. Di Costanzo and Zelinsky; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation; Kathy Payea, Public Safety Analyst; Kathy Emmett, Law Dept., Frank Fedeli, Supervisor, Cashiering and Permitting; Robert Tyska, Golf Commission; John Rovegno and David Winston, Parks and Recreation Commission; Michael Brisco, Angela Aulenti and Bekim Ukperaj, E.G. Brennan.

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

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. PR30.018	RESOLUTION; Concerning an Exemption from Beach Pass Fees for Active Service Members of the US Military and Veterans. 01/15/19 – Submitted by Reps. Patterson, Summerville, Sherwood, Matherne	Approved as Amended 5-0-2

There was discussion on this item regarding defining the individuals and groups to be included in this resolution.

- Currently there are exemptions provided for active military and handicapped individuals; handicapped exemptions are considered on a case-by-case basis.
- How far reaching should the exemptions be extended?
- There are approximately 200-250 Stamford veterans that may take advantage of this exemption.
- Documentation would have to be presented to the cashier.

A motion to amend this resolution to read in the third paragraph “. . . active service members and spouses, ~~and veterans of veterans and spouses, and Gold Star family members of . . .~~” was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-2 (Reps.

¹ 00:00:11 Video Time Stamp

Mahoney, de la Cruz, Matherne, Saftic and Stella in favor; Reps. Giordano and Watkins abstaining).

A motion to approve this resolution as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-2 (Reps. Mahoney, de la Cruz, Matherne, Saftic and Stella in favor; Reps. Giordano and Watkins abstaining).

- ². [PR30.020](#) APPROVAL; Agreement between City of Stamford and Hole in One Cart Rental, Inc. for Golf Course Management and Golf Cart Rental Services for E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Course Under RFP No. 752. **Approved 6-0-1**
02/07/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/19/19 – Approved by Board of Finance

There was discussion on this item.

- This is a five year contract with an additional mutual five year option.
- The contract can be terminated by the City with no penalty.
- It will improve the way services are provided to golfers.
- It will allow the golf superintendent to spend more time maintaining the golf course.
- Hole in One Cart Rental will be responsible for leasing, insuring, fueling and maintaining the golf carts.
- Hole in One Cart Rental will receive 65% of cart revenue, City will receive 35%.
- This agreement provides the golf pro an incentive to increase the number of rounds at the golf course.

A motion to approve this agreement was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Reps. Mahoney, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, Saftic and Watkins in favor; Rep. Stella abstaining).

- ³. [PR30.012](#) REVIEW; Stamford Park Police Status and Contract. **Report Made & Held**
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
01/22/19 – Report Made & Held 7-0-0

There was discussion on this item.

- Ms. Payea reviewed the [attached](#) presentation, and explained the methodology.
- The analysis was of the park season from April 1st to October 31st, 2018.
- Weather can affect these figures from year to year.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:24:48

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:54:00

- It can be difficult to categorize when an emergency call turns out to be a non-emergency.
- The Committee would like more defined figures separating each park these activities involve.
- If there has been an increase in pro-active patrol, why is there going to be a decrease in parks police officers?
- Ms. Payea will provide to the P&R Committee and P&R Commission an analysis of the off-season figures from November thru March.
- The Committee will find out if Co-Chair McGarry would like to continue the discussion on this item.

Ms. Emmett referred to her [response memo](#); due to Co-Chair McGarry's absence, Ms. Emmett will come to the next Committee meeting, if requested, to respond to any questions.

Mr. Jankowski said that in his [response memo](#) he reported all of the facts and responses that the Committee requested, and it should answer all the questions from the Committee.

- ⁴4. PR30.016 REVIEW; Status of the Closing of Kosciuszko Park. **Report Made & Held**
 12/05/18 – Submitted by Rep. McGarry
 12/18/18 – Held in Committee
 01/22/19 – Report Made & Held 7-0-0

There was discussion on this item.

- Mr. McGrath would like to open up 50% of the park during the day with a highly visual fence barrier and signage separating the school area during school hours.
- The fenced area would be accessible to the public during off-school hours.
- The City is trying to protect the students, not keep the citizens from the parks.
- Input from parents and parent-school organizations would be helpful.
- This needs to be done as soon as possible with the warmer weather coming.
- The Westover situation is unique because the school is in an office building and there is no designated playground area.
- This item has brought up the issue of other parks which abut schools and are closed during school hours. The Committee would like to highlight that issue with a possible public hearing to get residents' input.

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

- ⁵5. [PR30.014](#) REVIEW; Parks Policy As It Relates To Signage in the Parks. **Report Made & Held**
 10/02/18 – Submitted by Rep. Mahoney
 10/25/18 – Report Made and Held
 11/13/18 – Moved to Pending
 01/22/19 – Report Made & Held 7-0-0

⁴ Video Time Stamp 01:49:04

⁵ Video Time Stamp 02:20:52

There was discussion on this item.

- [Resolution 2938](#) needs to be updated to have a revised list of leagues.
- A more substantial ordinance is needed to define the policies regarding signage.
- The ordinance needs to cover who exactly is responsible for managing the signage; the P&R Commission has taken on this role in the absence of leadership.
- How exactly does the P&R Commission work into the policy of handling signage?
- There needs to be a framework for accepting large commercial sponsorships.
- The Mayor and Director of Operations or designee should be involved in the formation of specific rule and regulations for signage.
- Items needed to move forward: 1) the Committee will get an updated list of leagues for a revised resolution, and 2) information needs to be gathered to create a larger text for an ordinance on policies and procedures.

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

⁶6. PR30.019 REVIEW; Need for a Superintendent of Parks & Recreation.
02/06/19 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Pratt

**Report Made
& Held**

There was discussion on this item.

- This position is in the Charter.
- It was not filled in the past, so it was eliminated from the budget, even though it was requested.
- The Facilities Manager and Recreation Superintendent have been taking on the role but it is very difficult.
- Given the Parks issues going on now, it should be a top priority to get this position back in the budget.

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

Co-Chair Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Mahoney, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

⁶ Video Time Stamp: 03:01:38