



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

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

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 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 Wallace. Absent or excused were Co-Chair McGarry and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, Pratt and Watkins. Also present: Michael Toma, Law Department; Kevin Murray, Parks and Facilities; and David Winston, Parks and Recreation Commission.

Co-Chair Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PR30.023	ORDINANCE for publication; Banning Smoking in City-Owned Beaches, Parks & Other Recreational Locations. 05/08/19 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Pratt 05/13/19 – Moved to Pending	Committee Held 7-0-0

Co-Chair Mahoney stated the board received an [email](#) from the Golf Commission this afternoon which voiced concerns over this proposed ordinance.

Rep. Stella stated he received complaints from parents regarding smoking next to children in parks that's why he initiated this ordinance.

Committee Members stated concerns regarding smoking in parks:

- Health concerns
- Increased trash with cigarette buds
- How to control smoking in parks
- Possible violations and how will it be enforced
- Possible smoking areas instead of full ban
- Concerns with banning vaping because people are actually trying to quit cigarette smoking

Attorney Toma stated:

- The Board has legal authority to pass a smoking ban ordinance on any city owned property
- There are several other cities in Connecticut that have passed smoking ban ordinances
- Enforcement can be a part of the civil citation process

- The police can enforce ordinances but not a practice
- Violation penalties are from \$0-\$250 per violation per state law
- Stamford Charter grants the Parks and Recreation Commission to make rules and regulations regarding the use and conduct in Parks
- Board of Reps should make sure the Parks and Recreation Commission take some action in favor of this ordinance because of possible future challenges and to be consistent

David Winston stated in terms of the Parks and Recreation Commission Authority, all parks are not under their regulations. He thinks the Golf courses have their own rules and regulations set through the Golf Authority and Golf Commission. They are set up like other Stamford park lands such as the Mill River Park, Bartlett Arboretum and Stamford Museum.

Mr. Toma states that the Board of Representatives does have the authority to have a smoking ban on golf courses and all parks. He reiterated the importance of consistency of the ordinance and the Parks and Recreation Commission rules and regulations because of less potential cause for legal action.

Chair Mahoney asked that the next meeting include inviting Director of Health, Director of Public Safety and Health, Golf Commission, Youth League, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Director of Operations to include all parties that this ordinance may effect.

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

2. PR30.024	REVIEW; Condition of Playground Surface Material as Chestnut Hill Park. 06/01/19 – Submitted by Reps. Lion and Nabel	WITHDRAWN
-----------------------------	---	------------------

Co-Chair Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 7:06pm

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Mahoney, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).