



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

Dennis Mahoney, Chair

Marion McGarry, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020

**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 Chair Mahoney and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne and Wallace. Absent or excused were Vice Chair McGarry and Committee Member Reps. Pratt and Saftic. Also present were Reps. Sherwood and Zelinsky; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Michael Toma, Law Dept.; Sally Sheck, Alex Lionetti, Stan Friedman and Paul Grillo, Sterling Farms Golf Course; Robert Tyska and Michael Briscoe, Golf Commission; Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation; Ken Smith, Terry Connors Rink; Bekim Ukperaj and Hildago Nagashima, Brennan Golf Course; Alan Gerard, Patriotic & Special Events Commission and veteran; and veterans Jim Dudley, Courtland Mehl, Steve Fischer, Chris Munger, Philip Schechter and Alan Sosnowitz.

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

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<sup>1</sup> 1. <a href="#">PR30.038</a>	RESOLUTION; Approving Lease Modification Agreement between City of Stamford and Stamford Golf Authority/Sterling Farms. 10/09/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 10/15/19 – Moved to Pending 10/29/19 – Approved by <a href="#">Planning Board</a> 11/14/19 – Approved by Board of Finance 11/19/19 – Public Hearing Held; No Action Taken Due to Lack of Quorum	<b>Approved 6-0-0</b>

This item was discussed in detail at the November 19, 2019 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting.

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

---

<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:00:25

- <sup>2</sup>. [PR30.023](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Banning Smoking in City-Owned Beaches, Parks & Other Recreational Locations. **No Action Taken**  
05/08/19 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Pratt  
05/13/19 – Moved to Pending  
06/18/19 – Held in Committee 7-0-0  
07/08/19 – Moved to Pending  
9/17/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0  
10/30/19 – Held by Committee for Public Participation 5-3-0  
11/12/19 – Moved to Pending

Mr. Toma explained that State law ([Statute 19a-342](#)) clearly supersedes and preempts any provisions of municipal law. The State has made it very clear in the State ordinance that it wants to regulate smoking.

- A broad municipal ban is what the State ordinance is addressing. The ordinance has a listing of banned areas for smoking, including “any building owned by any political sub-division”. It is strictly applicable to buildings that are owned, leased and operated by the City.
- Stamford is a political sub-division of the State of Connecticut.
- Based on the wording, the State ordinance would not reach private organizations that receive funding from the City.
- It is the opinion of the City Law Department that the Board of Representatives does not have any authority to pass local laws on smoking.

- <sup>3</sup>. [PR30.040](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; Establishing Fees for the E.G. Brennan Municipal Golf Course for the 2020 Golf Season. **Approved 6-0-0**  
12/10/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin

Mr. Tyska explained the need for the increases, and there was discussion on this item.

- These are the first increases to greens fees in two years.
- E.G. Brennan is very affordable compared to other local golf courses.
- The last two years were bad weather years. In 2018, 168 golf days were lost to weather and 2019, 165 golf days lost to weather.
- The Mayor increasing Stamford’s minimum wage to be higher than the State minimum wage was unexpected and not put into the budget. The starting range for laborers and rangers was \$11.00 and jumped to \$13.50, and will continue to increase for the next few years per the State mandate.
- It is very costly to keep a golf course running and in good condition. Last year two pieces of equipment cost a total of \$85,000 to replace. Conditions have been improving with the new superintendent.
- Unlike Sterling Farms, E.G. Brennan is a self-sufficient entity. It operates solely on generated revenue, and does not receive any City tax dollars.
- Active military can play for free. This is listed on the E.G. Brennan website, but Mr. Tyska stated he will post the rates at the golf course.

---

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:02:43

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:14:43

- Chair Mahoney requested that next year Mr. Tyska brings to the BOR the figures on the costs incurred due to the minimum wage increases.

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

- <sup>4</sup>4. [PR30.041](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; **Approved 6-0-0**  
Establishing Fees for the Terry Connors Ice Rink.  
01/08/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin

Ms. Albano explained the need for the increases and there was discussion on this item.

- Terry Connors Rink (TCR) is very affordable and costs much less than other rinks in the area. It is a well-loved and well-used rink.
- The Operating budget is doing well, but the Capital budget has problems.
- The deferred maintenance needed is about \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 to bring the rink to an acceptable level of operation. Engineering design work is currently being done and more specific figures will be known after that. Attached is the TCR [Capital Project Request FY 2020-2026](#).
- The Mayor has requested that TCR become a special revenue fund. OPM is working on this.
- Three school teams currently have free use of the rink, at approximately \$58,000 per year. Team practice is during off-peak time, and the games are during peak times. The policy is that TCR will get any revenue generated by game attendance. However the past three years' only had a revenue of \$12,000 which is a net loss of \$46,000 per year.
- There have been preliminary discussions regarding TCR becoming an independent model. OPM is working on crafting this, and Ms. Albano will get information to the BOR once she has it.
- The Mayor has requested TCR try to seek paid advertising space to generate revenue.
- The in-ice full center circle advertising will be limited to school hockey programs. All other advertising (perimeter walls and boards) will be available to commercial advertisers.
- The BOR will modify the resolution to include a clause for restrictions on types of advertising both in and out of the ice.

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

- <sup>5</sup>5. [PR30.039](#) REVIEW; Possible Ordinance Mandating Memorial **Report Made**  
Day Parade.  
11/08/19 – Submitted by Rep. Zelinsky

Rep. Zelinsky stated he had many constituent concerns about the lack of a Memorial Day parade last year. Mr. McGrath and Mr. Gerard explained the reasons for not having a parade, and there was discussion on this item.

---

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:33:05

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:54:24

- In addition to declining attendance, two reasons there was not a parade last year:
  - Veterans Park was under re-construction and there was no logical end place for the parade.
  - Patricia Parry (mother of fallen soldier Brian Bill) was in full support of the Memorial 5K run.
- There can be other forms of remembrance besides a parade.
- Pat Battinelli organized the parade for 40 years until he retired as organizer.
- There are currently only three people on the Patriotic and Special Events Committee.
- Mr. McGrath and Mr. Gerard are in favor of a parade.
- If a parade is mandated, to whom does the responsibility fall? Volunteers cannot be mandated.
- Many volunteers are needed to successfully organize a parade.

Rep. Zelinsky and the P&R Committee agreed that as long as there is an understanding that the Patriotic & Special Events Committee will coordinate volunteers and agree to have a Memorial Day parade every year, it is not necessary to pursue an ordinance mandating a parade.

Chair Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Mahoney, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).