



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

Dennis Mahoney, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: **Held Remotely**

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were chair Mahoney and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, Saffic and Wallace. Rep. Pratt was absent. Also present were Reps. Sherwood and Stella; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Kevin Murray, Parks and Facilities Manager; Ray Redniss, Harbor Management Commission; Frank Fedeli, Cashiering and Permitting, Jim Travers and Frank Petise, Traffic, Transportation and Parking Bureau; Jennifer Williams, Parks & Recreation Bureau Chief; and Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety.

Chair Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitees (or designees)
1. PR30.043	RESOLUTION <u>and public hearing</u> ; Approving a License Agreement between the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, First Southern District and the City of Stamford: Use of Cummings Park Marina Boat House. 02/06/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 03/03/20 – Approved by Planning Board 03/16/20 – Approved by Board of Finance	Approved 7-0-0

Chair Mahoney opened the public hearing. There were no members of the public on the remote meeting wishing to speak. No members of the public had contacted the Board office requesting to speak or to submit comments. The public hearing was closed.

Committee members discussed the lease with Mr. Murray:

- The Coast Guard will not be using the boat house for docking; it will be used for meetings and educational programs
- The license has a 1 year term; so if the City Marina returns, the boat house can be used
- The Coast Guard will have its own restrooms in the building; the public restrooms will remain

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, Saffic and Wallace in favor)

2. [PR30.042](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending [Chapter 6, Article XII, Sec 6-58](#) Paragraph 1 Establishing Requirements of Harbor Management Commission. **Approved 7-0-0**
02/05/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
02/18/20 – No Action Taken

Committee members discussed this item with Mr. Redniss:

- The yacht clubs are comfortable with this change, since the initial program had to do with the establishment of the Harbor Management Plan, which is now in place
- This change is being requested because they are having a difficult time filling seats on the commission given the current requirements; there are currently 2 unfilled seats on the commission
- The applicants don't fit the current formula
- The Harbor Management Plan has been in place for 10 years; the commission is looking for people with an interest in harbor management.

A motion to approve Item No. 2 for a public hearing was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, Saftic and Wallace in favor)

3. [PR30.044](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; Approving Non-Resident Beach Parking Fees. **Approved, as amended, 5-1-0**
03/04/20 – Submitted by President Quinones

Committee members discussed this item at length with Mr. McGrath, Ms. Williams, Mr. Fedeli, Mr. Travers and Mr. Petise.

Committee members discussed whether to waive the public hearing on this item:

- There is no requirement in the Charter or Code for a public hearing
- Residents have expressed concerns about large numbers of residents arriving in buses
- Fees should not be raised without a public hearing
- This is a logistical problem because the beaches will be opening on Saturday
- The City requested that this be moved forward
- The beaches will be very crowded since neighboring beaches are closed

A motion to strike the language “and approval of public hearing” was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-2-0 (Reps. Mahoney, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne and Wallace in favor; Reps. Aquila and Saftic opposed).

Committee members continued to discuss this item, including plans to manage social distancing and the plans for the dual pricing:

- The City feels it can manage the dual pricing
- Currently, the parking enforcement employees are going to parks to encourage social distancing and will be used on the beaches
- Bathrooms are being cleaned more frequently in accordance with CDC guidelines
- There is signage for social distancing on the beaches

- There will be multiple lanes for so this doesn't cause lines at the entrances – they are working with the vendor on this.
- The occupancy limits at the beach are based on parking capacity; they will determine whether capacity needs to be reduced
- The City will provide the Board with its plans relating to the virus and social distancing and queuing up at the beaches in writing before Monday's Board meeting
- Norwalk charges \$325 for a season pass for non-residents in neighboring land-locked communities and charges \$40 for a non-resident weekday daily pass and \$65 for a non-resident weekend daily pass
- The burden should not be shifted onto communities surrounding the beaches
- \$100 /car is not fair to individuals in cars; the price should be per person
- The seasonal pass should be valid on weekends
- People would be able to get around the per person charge at beaches without fences and gates
- If raising the weekend fees, the pass should be valid all 7 days

A motion to amend the proposed resolution to provide for a \$40 daily charge for a non-resident vehicle on weekdays and \$65 charge for a non-resident vehicle on weekend days was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-1-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano and Matherne in favor; Rep. Saftic opposed).

A motion to amend the proposed resolution to strike "for Monday through Friday" access was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne and Saftic in favor).

A motion to approve the resolution, as amended, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-1-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano and Matherne in favor; Rep. Saftic opposed).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Mahoney, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).