



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

Dennis Mahoney, Chair

Raven Matherne, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020

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

**Place:** Meeting was held remotely

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Mahoney, Vice Chair Matherne and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Policar, Saftic and Wallace. Absent was Rep. Pratt. Also present were Reps. Cottrell, McMullen, Michelson, Sherwood, Watkins and Zelinsky; Kevin Murray, Parks & Facilities Manager; Jim Travers, Transportation Bureau Chief; Jennifer Williams, Parks Bureau Chief; and Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare.

Chair Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. PR30.046	REVIEW; Overview of Beach Access, Pedestrian and Car Access, Hours of Operation, Enforcement and Challenges the City Encounters. 05/06/20 – Submitted by Reps. Mahoney, Matherne, Cottrell, Roqueta, Michelson, Sherwood and Zelinsky	<b>Report Made</b>

### ***Secondary Committee: Transportation***

Committee members discussed this item with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- Covid testing has been moved from Cummings to Stamford High School
- There was an uptick in beach usage this past weekend
- As the beaches are used, Parks Enforcement will be encouraging social distancing
- It is possible that masks will be distributed at the beaches
- There will be signage about masking and social distancing
- The only reported issues this past weekend were non-residents upset about the fee increase; there were no complaints from neighbors other than 1 complaint about a driving rally, which was diffused by the police
- If the City needs to, they will consider limiting the number of vehicles parking at the beaches
- The committee needs to find out if the City can charge individuals to access the beach, or only to park
- There were many people without masks and congregating at Cummings Beach this past weekend

- LAZ will be helping to remind people about social distancing; there will be two police squads designated to parks
- 129 daily passes were sold over the weekend; 3952 park permits were sold in May
- There were 39 Park Permit violations on Saturday and 52 on Sunday; 35 Residential Parking Permit violations on Saturday and 19 no parking zone violations on Saturday and 5 on Sunday
- The beaches are open for swimming; the Health Department is testing the water
- Lifeguards began this weekend
- A person must wear a face mask if they are not able to maintain a social distance of 6 feet; the signage is consistent with the Governor's Executive Order
- Darien, Greenwich and Westport beaches are currently resident only
- This item should remain on the agenda

2. PR30.047      RESOLUTION and Approval of Public Hearing;      **Held 8-0-0**  
 Amending [Resolution No. 4045](#) Concerning Non-  
 Resident Beach Sticker Fees  
 05/06/20 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, Cottrell  
 and Zelinsky

Rep. Cottrell explained that she put this on the agenda in order to ensure access to beaches for Stamford residents and also prevent non-residents from parking on the streets and recognizing the City's responsibility to share its resources. Having non-residents pay less in the afternoon will incentivize non-residents to pay the fee.

Rep. Sherwood further explained that reducing the fee back to \$25 after noon would enable Stamford residents to arrive early and get "good spots"

Committee members discussed this with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- Many people depend on the tide schedule for swimming and use the beach based on the tide schedule, which changes every day
- Many residents can't get to the beach on Monday through Saturday because of work and can't arrive before the afternoon on Sunday because of church
- This pricing structure would encourage people to arrive later and to stay after closing
- There are many variables that need to be considered
- Maybe beaches such as West Beach should be excluded because of the tides
- The Board only approved this new fee structure last month. They should wait to see the impact of the new fee structure
- The Parks enforcement unit started this evening; they are working with traffic enforcement and parks police to address Representatives' concerns; there will be more information after this weekend
- Riverbank, Dorothy Heroy and John Bocuzzi Park also require permits
- This resolution might make sense for the Cove, but not for other beaches
- Evening use is an issue at Cummings Beach

***As a Secondary Committee: (Transportation Committee 05/21/20)***

1. T30.050      REVIEW; Criteria And Application of the Residential Parking Program, with Particular Focus on the Effects of Neighborhood Parking by Beach Goers.  
05/05/20 – Submitted by Reps. Watkins, Michelson and Zelinsky.

Chair Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Mahoney, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).