



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Held by Webinar

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Stella, Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Giordano, Lutz, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba and Sherwood. Excused was Rep. Pratt. Also in attendance were Rep. Lion; Dr. Jennifer Calder, Director, Health Department; Ted Jankowski, Director, PHS&W; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Jennifer Williams, Bureau Chief, Parks & Recreation and Facilities; and two members of the public.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PS30.052	REVIEW; The circumstances and guidelines for closures of Stamford's Parks and Recreational Facilities in regard to the Covid-19 Pandemic. 04/08/20 – Submitted by Reps. Matherne, Lion and Morson	Report Made

There was discussion on this item.

- It is very important to have park space open for health and safety reasons. Many people in Stamford live in apartments with no yard. Not being able to get outside can affect physical and mental health for both children and adults. Additionally, there are many residents who need to leave their residence at times for safety reasons.
- The City is constantly monitoring the situation at parks, following CDC guidelines and the Governor's directives, while also reducing risks and not putting residents in danger.
- Mr. McGrath stated he receives a daily park report, and there have not been many reports of non-compliance. Most people have been taking this seriously and adhering to guidelines.
- In the warmer weather, if parks are closed, people will gather elsewhere.
- The City has distributed 35,000 masks in the past five days. This has helped to flatten the curve in Stamford.
- Neighboring municipalities have different levels of park closures.
- If there is a specific park that is frequently non-compliant, that one park could be temporarily closed.
- Beach permits are currently available online, and day passes on-site. If a day pass is purchased on-site, that amount would be credited when the Government Center is re-opened and a beach pass is purchased.

- Golf courses and tennis courts will re-open May 1st, 2020 with restrictions.
- There has been no discussion yet on re-opening pools.
- Over time once more is learned about Covid, it will be easier to stay ahead of the curve.
- The Committee thanked the work the Administration has done during the Covid pandemic.

2. PS30.053 REVIEW; The current status of Stamford Hospital and the City of Stamford's Healthcare Facilities During the Covid-19 Pandemic. **Report Made**
 04/08/20 – Submitted by Reps. Matherne, Lion and Morson

There was discussion on this item.

- Stamford has been the model for other municipalities during the Covid pandemic.
- The City follows CDC guidelines for testing.
- Are enough people being tested to get a full picture?
- The State of CT only requires data on positive test results of Covid. There is no requirement to submit the negative tests results, so the City cannot get that information.
- There have been challenges reporting nursing home patient data, due to patients being transferred to the hospital. Sometimes the data was crossed between when a person was a hospital patient and nursing home patient.
- People need to be cautious and not get too relaxed with their masks and social distancing.
- Word needs to be put out to the community that it is okay to go to the hospital with non-Covid related issues. The Stamford Hospital has a separate wing for Covid patients.
- Mr. Jankowski will tally all data that has been made available to him and get it to the Committee.

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).