



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

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

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 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. Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne and Stella. Absent or excused were Co-Chair McGarry and Committee Member Reps. Pratt, Saftic, Wallace and Watkins. Also present were Reps. Di Costanzo, Sherwood and Zelinsky; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; and five members of the public.

Co-Chair Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. PR30.016	REVIEW <u>and public hearing</u> ; Status of the Closing of Kosciuszko Park. 12/05/18 – Submitted by Reps. McGarry and Zelinsky 12/18/18 – Held in Committee 01/22/19 – Report Made & Held 7-0-0 02/19/19 – Report Made & Held 7-0-0	Report Made & Held 6-0-0

Co-Chair Mahoney opened the public hearing. Three members of the public spoke and the public hearing was then closed. Some issues brought up during the public hearing:

- The perimeter fence has been closed when it should not have been.
- Residents should be able to enjoy the park during the daytime.
- Parking is difficult for disabled residents.
- There are lighting and portable toilet issues.

There was discussion on this item.

- There is currently no playground equipment for the school; the Administration and BOE are discussing this.
- There needs to be a balance between the safety of the school children and quality of life for residents.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:10

- Mr. McGrath is working on having half of the park opened with no restrictions for residents, and half of the park being closed on school days from 7:30am – 4:00pm. April 1st is the goal for this.
- Mr. McGrath reviewed the [attached](#) view of the area and the fencing plans.
- There was recently a Westover parent forum and there was no negative feedback regarding the outside area of the new school building.

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

- ²2. [PR30.018](#) RESOLUTION; Concerning an Exemption from Beach Pass Fees for Active Service Members of the US Military and Veterans. **Approved 5-0-1**
 01/15/19 – Submitted by Reps. Patterson and Summerville
 02/19/19 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 5-0-2
03/04/19 – Held by Full Board

There was a brief discussion on this item. Rep. Giordano explained he would be abstaining on this item due to a conflict of interest.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-1 (Reps. Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Matherne and Stella in favor; Rep. Giordano abstaining).

- ³3. [PR30.022](#) RESOLUTION; Permitting Signage by Designated Youth Sports Leagues. **Approved as Amended 6-0-0**
 03/06/19 – Submitted by Rep. Mahoney

There was discussion on this item.

- This resolution is to update the previous resolution.
- In the past it was usually only youth baseball leagues that took advantage of sponsorship.
- Sponsorship allows leagues to raise third party funds.

A motion to amend this item to have a one year expiration from the date of being enacted was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Aquila, de la Cruz, Giordano, Matherne, and Stella in favor).

A motion was made and seconded to not allow signs for alcoholic beverages. There was discussion:

- There is a difference between advertising consumption of liquor and advertising an establishment that serves liquor.
- There are currently bars/restaurants which sponsor youth leagues.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:21:00

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:24:45

- It could become overreaching as to who is allowed and not allowed to sponsor.
- It is important to encourage both sponsorship and wholesome activities.
- Each league's board should police its own league's policies.
- The BOR Office will research the Charter regarding alcohol related signage.
- The Committee will ask the P&R Commission to provide a list of current sponsors and advertisers to review.

The motion and second were withdrawn.

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

⁴4. PR30.021 REVIEW; Current Policy for Park Hours at Each **Report Made**
 Park Abutting School Property & Current Signage. **& Held 6-0-0**
 02/19/19 – Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo

There was discussion on this item.

- Three schools have abutting parks: Stark, Springdale, and the new Westover building.
- Mr. McGrath plans to make the signs at the schools uniform so all state the same hours of 7:30am – 4:00pm.
- Mr. McGrath will review what can be done to segregate the public and students.
- A recent Stamford school forum showed that students are concerned about indoor school shootings and outdoor playground bullying.
- Should schools have an outside security guard for the outdoor areas?
- There needs to be a way that students and the public can share the spaces safely.

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

Co-Chair Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Dennis Mahoney, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 00:40:25