



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

Dennis Mahoney, Chair

Raven Matherne, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2020
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: This 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, Policar, Saftic and Wallace. Excused were Reps. Giordano and Pratt. Also present were Reps. Sherwood and Zelinsky; Jennifer Williams, Parks & Recreation and Facilities Bureau Chief; Laurie Albano, Parks & Recreation Supervisor; Ken Smith, Terry Conners Rink Manager; Laura Burwick, Special Assistant to the Mayor; Lee Berta, OPM; Rob Tyska, Golf Commission; Hidalgo Nagashima and Bekim Ukperaj, Gaynor Brennan Golf Course; and three members of the public.

Chair Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

| Item No. | Description | Committee Action |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| ¹ PR30.055 | RESOLUTION and Public Hearing; Establishing Fees for E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Course 2021. 09/09/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 09/22/20 – Approved by Committee 7-0-0 | Approved 6-0-0 |

Chair Mahoney opened the Public Hearing. There being no one from the public wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:06pm.

- Mr. Zelinsky explained that constituents have called him to say that the \$2.00 increase can be difficult for seniors on a fixed income. He requested to keep the Senior rates at the current amount.

A motion to amend this item to retain the current Senior rates was made and seconded, and there was discussion.

- Mr. Tyska explained the reasons for the increases. It was noted that this was discussed at length at the Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting on September 22, 2020 ([report attached](#)).
- E. Gaynor Brennan has a deficit of \$44,000 which has to be recuperated. The Mayor has mandated the budget be balanced.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:40

- It is self-sufficient and receives no tax dollars.
- It offers very low prices compared to other area courses.
- Sterling Farms' rent was reduced by \$170,000 and it has revenue from the driving range.
- Total revenue for Sterling Farms is between \$2.3 million and \$2.5 million.
- E. Gaynor Brennan's revenue is close to \$1.6 million.
- The \$2.00 Senior rate increase will amount to close to \$2,000 in revenue.
- All rates are being increased, not only Senior rates.

After the discussion, the motion and second to retain the current Senior rates was withdrawn.

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

- ². [PR30.059](#) REVIEW; Detailed Financial Analysis of the Operating and Capital Expenses of Terry Conners Rink. **Report Made and Held**
 10/08/20 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood and Mahoney

Ms. Burwick and Ms. Berta explained this spreadsheet, which attempts to give a picture of the ongoing operational costs to run TCR, and there was discussion.

- The BOF funded TCR for only three-quarters of the fiscal year. Now that there are rate increases, the BOF agreed to move forward with a proposal to fund the remaining quarter to see if these rate increases are helpful.
- The City is looking for an independent consultant to determine what can help the bottom line.
- The Human Resource Department is currently benchmarking salaries and comparing to other rinks.
- Maximus is a consulting firm and this cost allocation is done annually, at a rate of \$15,000 per year
- This spreadsheet is the breakdown of the Central Services cost allocation.
- This analysis does not reflect the exact numbers required to operate TCR. This represents 19/20 actuals for the 20/21 budget.
- The cost of central services the City provides to TCR is \$77,534.
- If free rink time is not given to the BOE, this could impact the school teams and hockey programs.
- Current pension obligations and workers' compensation claims are included in these numbers, as are ongoing insurance costs (\$65,000 per year).
- Lou Casolo and his team have discussed the capital needs and there have not been any changes to the budget at this time. The numbers for the capital needs have been put into the budget according to his team's expertise.
- The fire alarm system is not up to code and City is working on getting bids to make the system code compliant.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:49:55

The Committee requested of Ms. Burwick and Ms. Berta:

- The 212 page document from which these numbers were based.
- An executive summary of this analysis to get a clearer understanding of these numbers.
- To talk to Mayor Martin and Dr. Lucero about tonight's meeting, gather their input, and report that information to the BOR.

- ³3. [PR30.058](#) RESOLUTION and Approval of Public Hearing; **Approved as Amended 7-0-0**
Approving a Temporary Rate Increase at Terry
Connors Rink for Out-of-Town Users During Off-
Peak Hours.
10/07/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin

Ms. Burwick explained the reason for this resolution, and there was discussion:

- Due to COVID restrictions, many hockey teams from New York are looking for rink time and Stamford has the opportunity to help TCR by charging more.
- There will be minimal displacement of Stamford residents for public rink time.
- Currently 25 people are allowed on the ice at one time, including a monitor.
- Although very few people are using the public rink time right now, the numbers always go up in December, January, and February.
- The rates are reasonable compared to other rinks' pricing in CT and NY.
- The ability for the rink manager to be flexible in negotiating pricing will help in booking the ice time during COVID restrictions.
- Mr. Smith will provide the BOR with a monthly update on out of state rink usage.

A motion to amend the resolution to include the five bullet points from Ms. Burwick's memo, with a change in wording regarding flexibility of rink manager to negotiate pricing, and the expiration year to be corrected to 2021, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Matherne, Aquila, de la Cruz, Policar, Saftic, and Wallace in favor).

A motion to approve this item with intended amendments to be presented to the full Board at the November 4th, 2020 Board Meeting was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Matherne, Aquila, de la Cruz, Policar, Saftic, and Wallace in favor).

- ⁴4. [PR30.057](#) RESOLUTION and Approval of Public Hearing; **Approved as Amended 7-0-0**
Approving Ballfield Advertising Banner Fees.
09/25/20 – Submitted by Mayor Martin

Ms. Albano explained this resolution is a new initiative involving the adult league programs, similar to what has has been allowed on the youth fields for a long time.

³ Video Time Stamp: 02:03:55

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 02:52:28

- As of now the banners will only be at Cummings #1 and #2 fields, and the Scalzi Park field home plate.
- This will serve to generate revenue for the Recreation Services and also help local businesses.
- The program should generate approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year, which is five to eight banners.
- The Parks & Recreation Department will be very cognizant of making sure there is no inappropriate advertising.

A motion to amend the resolution to include the language: “Any commercial banner advertising shall be appropriate for all ages” was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Matherne, Aquila, de la Cruz, Policar, Saftic, and Wallace in favor).

A motion to approve this item as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Mahoney, Matherne, Aquila, de la Cruz, Policar, Saftic, and Wallace in favor).

Chair Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 10:16pm.

This meeting is on [video](#).