



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

Jennifer Matheny, Chair      Daniel Sandford, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:**      Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
**Time:**      7:00 pm  
**Place:**      This meeting was held remotely

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance was Chair Matheny, Vice Chair Sandford, and Committee Member Reps. de la Cruz, Gilbride, and Nabel. Excused was Rep. Bewkes. Absent was Rep. Saftic. Also present were Reps. Boeger, Cottrell, Sherwood, and Tomas; Laurie Albano, Superintendent of Recreation; and Scott Kassouf, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation.

Chair Matheny called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
11. <a href="#">PR31.001</a>	REVIEW; Star Center Annual Report 02/04/22 – Submitted by Laurie Albano	<b>Report Made</b>

Ms. Albano and Mr. Kassouf reviewed the attached [presentation](#) and there was discussion. Some of the points discussed:

- The Star Center opened five years ago and the response has been very positive. The lease renewal is in June 2022. A proposal is being made to expand usage of the facility to allow for an additional five classrooms during the school year, for a total of 16,000 square feet.
- The Diocese has agreed to keep the rental rate the same for the upcoming fiscal year, with minimal increases in years two thru five.
- There are several advantages over using BOE space, and the programs can operate on days when BOE buildings would be closed or unavailable.
- Gross total revenue collected in the 2021 season was \$388,044.44. The approximate subsidy the City has to spend is \$147,000 after salaries and all other costs are taken out. The biggest loss of revenue is due to scholarship subsidies in the summer months.
- The enrollment continues to grow. The programs are geared to youth, but there are also adult programs.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:01:20

- Majority of the participants are from Stamford and residents are given priority for registration. Most of the students from out of town attend Stamford magnet schools, or their parents work in Stamford.
- Social media, email blasts and brochures are used to disseminate information.
- 60-65% of the programs operate with contractors through the City of Stamford and supply their own employees and equipment. The rest are seasonal employees through the City of Stamford.

Several Representatives stated that the Star Center has been a valuable asset to the community.

<sup>2</sup>2. [PR31.002](#) RESOLUTION; Sense of the Board to Protect City of Stamford Parks and Recreational Resources **Approved 5-0-0**  
02/09/22 - Submitted by Reps. Cottrell, Ley, Nabel, Figueroa, Roqueta, Sherwood, Watkins, Bewkes and Berns

Rep. Cottrell explained the intent of this resolution, and there was a brief discussion.

- It came about because of the proposal of placing a new school at Cove Island Park. Parks are a very important part of the Stamford Community and contribute to residents' well-being.
- The resolution was a group effort: Reps. Ley and Cottrell each created a draft, Rep. Ley merged the two, and Reps. Sherwood, Bewkes and Nabel were involved.
- Stamford is becoming increasingly urbanized and most of the new population is moving in south of I-95. A new school should be in this area along with urbanized amenities such as sidewalks and public transportation.
- Stamford needs to be mindful of where a new school will be located to protect all of the parks in the City.
- This resolution makes a bold statement about how the community values its parks.

A motion to approve item PR31.002 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Matheny, Sandford, de la Cruz, Gilbride, and Nabel in favor).

Chair Matheny adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Matheny, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:32:10