



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

Jennifer Matheny, Chair Daniel Sandford, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday June 30, 2022
Time: 7:00 pm
Place: This meeting was held remotely

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Matheny and Committee Member Reps. Bewkes, de la Cruz, and Nabel. Excused were Reps. Gilbride and Sandford. Absent was Rep. Saftic. Also present were Matt Quinones, Director of Operations; Kevin Murray, Manager, Parks & Facilities; Melanie Hollas and Jessica Katz, Parks & Recreation Commission; and three members of the public.

Chair Matheny called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
11. PR31.008	REVIEW; Overview of Park Strategic Plan Initiative. 06/08/22 – Submitted by Matt Quinones and Rep. Matheny	Report Made
2. PR31.006	REVIEW; A Study of all City Parks including How to Utilize the Parks More Efficiently and How the Parks are Maintained. 04/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis and Stella	Report Made

The Committee took up Items #1 and #2 together.

Mr. Quinones reviewed the Park Strategic Plan Initiative.

- \$50K has been funded for a consultant to facilitate a strategic plan process.
- This will allow the City to assess the usage of all City Parks, and create a vision and strategy for all parks including beaches (excluding Mill River Park).
- It has been difficult to disseminate funding resources and prioritizing projects.
- Community engagement is crucial to determine how each park is used.
- This is a five-part plan:
 - Researching and understanding what is the current state of Stamford's park usage. Getting national perspectives of other cities' park systems.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:01:20

- Stakeholder engagement. All 20 districts need to be engaged, along with certain boards and commissions.
- Building a preliminary concept plan. There will be an advisory committee to guide the process, there will be representation from BOR and Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Financial projections and phasing to align the plan with a realistic financing approach.
- Completion of the five-year strategic plan.
- The scope of work must align with existing initiatives of the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- There will be a comprehensive viewpoint of usage and individual neighborhood needs. The idea is that the vision for the parks comes from the community.
- It needs to be figured out how to leverage private funding.
- An advisory committee will be formed. This will be a large inclusive group that will help facilitate outreach and committee discussion on a regular basis.
- Timeline of this project will be six to 12 months:
 - RFP is almost ready to go live.
 - There will be a 60 day window to get bids.
 - An RFP Committee will be organized, access the bids, and award the contract.
 - The plan process is expected to launch in October.
 - It should take about six months, but no longer than 12 months.

There was discussion:

- It was requested that Mr. Quinones find out from the Purchasing Department about who will be on the RFP Committee.
- A sustainability plan for all the parks would be good idea.
- It is important for the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks & Recreation Committee to collaborate.
- A good source of information is the Trust for Public Land www.tpl.org.
- City leaders need to play a collective role.
- Operations Department is currently transitioning Parks and Recreation into one department. Previously Parks and Facilities were one division. This will separate the facilities component and allow for more of a focus around park maintenance.

²³. PR31.007 REVIEW; Extending the Times when Park Bathroom Facilities are Open to Yearly.
04/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis, Moore and Stella

Report Made

Reps. Moore and Stella explained their reason for putting this item on the Agenda. There are limited bathroom facilities in many parks even during the park season, and they are not open all year long. Some parks do not have any bathroom facilities. The portable bathrooms are often dirty and many women do not like using them, and most are not handicap-accessible. The bathrooms should coincide with the timing of the

² Video Time Stamp: 01:06:23

