



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

Jennifer Matheny, Chair

Daniel R. Sandford, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Matheny and Committee Member Reps. de la Cruz, Gilbride, Kuczynski, and Weinberg. Rep. Sandford was excused and Rep. Saftic was absent. Also present were Reps. Moore and Summerville; Captain Tom Lombardo; Park Police Officer Peter Gould; Frank Petise, Transportation Bureau Chief; Kevin Murray, Director of Parks & Recreation; Liz Turner, Asst. Corporation Counsel; Melanie Hollas, Parks & Recreation Commission; Chris Quinlan, Stamford Stars; and members of the public.

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

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
11. <a href="#">PR31.031</a>	REVIEW; Parking Practices at Scalzi Park. 03/07/24– Submitted by Rep. Moore	<b>RECOMMIT TO STEERING 5-0-0</b>

Rep. Moore introduced this item. Parking at Scalzi Park has become very dangerous due to many people parking on the side of the travel lane near the children's playground. It creates a narrow area to drive through, putting people in danger. Even when there are plenty of available spaces, families tend to park close to the children's playground in the travel lane. There should be no parking signs installed and cars should be ticketed before someone gets hurt.

Some points discussed:

Officer Gould stated several years ago there was signage that no parking was allowed alongside the travel lane and cars were ticketed. People were very upset about this so the decision was made to remove the no parking signs. There is not enough parking at Scalzi to support all of the activities that go on during the warm seasons. Additionally, even when there is parking available, people tend to want to park close to where they are going.

Capt. Lombardo noted that if a parking lane is added, this could be dangerous because children often run out from between parked cars into the roadway.

Scalzi was re-designed around 15 years ago and some parking spaces were eliminated during this time.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:00:45

Bocci courts are going to be redone to be regulation size and that will bring tournaments. New tennis courts are being made. This will create a need for more parking.

Mr. Petise said he will go out and measure to see if there is enough room to support parking, travel, and bike lanes in one area. He needs to get an idea of what is possible and what is not possible.

A motion to recommit Item #1 to Steering was made, seconded and approved by a voice vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Matheny, de la Cruz, Gilbride, Kuczynski, and Weinberg in favor).

<sup>2</sup>2. [PR31.032](#) APPROVAL; of adding "Home of the Stamford Stars" to the current sign at Cove Island Beach. **RECOMMIT TO STEERING 5-0-0**  
04/03/24 – Submitted by Rep. Matheny

Mr. Quinlan introduced this item. Stamford Stars has been in the community for many years and is a major program for female athletes. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for Stamford female athletes ages 4 to 13. They are the only permitted users of Troy Field. The sign would show that Stamford Stars is rooted in the community, as well as Cove Island. The group will cover all costs of the sign and can remove it during off-season if required. They have been raising funds for three years to get permitted bathroom structures. These would be opened during the hours Stamford Stars is using them but would be open to the public during those times.

Some points discussed:

There are many sanctioned organizations at Cove Island which are not on the sign. Should they be on it? Do they want to be on it?

What impact would this have on the future sanctioned users of the park.

The other three names on the sign are facilities, this would be a group.

The Parks & Recreation Commission has not yet come to a consensus as to whether or not the sign should be approved. There are many "friends" groups in the park, and what if every sanctioned user of the park wants to put up a sign? If this is approved, there would have to be consistency with the signs, and not have this as a special circumstance.

If the bathroom structures are donated by Stamford Stars, a sign would be a good sponsorship opportunity, if we need to update parks but do not have the funds.

Chair Matheny and Commissioner Hollas have been working for two years to get more cohesiveness between the Parks & Recreation Commission and BOR Parks & Recreation Committee. The Commission will have an opinion on the sign and the BOR will vote on approval of the sign.

Director Murray stated it is possible to work within the current budget to get sign consistency in the parks. He will work with Director Quinones to update/upgrade signage. The Signs and Lines division of Operations usually design the signs. No other groups at Cove Island have requested to be put on the entrance sign.

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:45:05

Chair Matheny stated the Committee will address this topic at a future meeting. Director Murray and the Commission will come up with a plan for the Stamford Stars sign and other signage at Cove Island and will present it to the Committee.

A motion to recommit Item #2 to Steering, with the purpose of deciding how to accommodate the Stamford Stars' request for signage and bring consistency to signage in City parks was made, seconded and approved by a voice vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Matheny, de la Cruz, Gilbride, Kuczynski, and Weinberg in favor).

3. [PR31.033](#)      RESOLUTION and Approval of Public Hearing;      **HELD**  
Amending the City of Stamford Parks and Recreation Commission Parks & Recreation Facility Regulations, per Code §175-1 (*adopted by the Board of Representatives [Res. 3889](#)*)  
03/20/24 – Approved by Parks & Recreation Commission  
04/17/24 – To be Considered by Parks & Recreation Commission  
04/03/24 – Submitted by Rep. Matheny

Item #3 was held due to the Parks & Recreation Commission requiring more time to review language questions from the Legal Dept.

- <sup>3</sup>4. [PR31.034](#)      RESOLUTION; Authorizing the Acceptance of Gift      **APPROVED**  
of a Seward Johnson Sculpture from the River Bend Center, LLC.      **5-0-0**  
04/03/24 – Submitted by Rep. Matheny

Chair Matheny introduced this item. She was contacted by Ms. Colatrella, Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission, about this donation. Chair Matheny has spoken to Lauren Meyer in the Mayor's office, it was appraised at \$45K, it was reviewed by the Legal Dept., and it will be placed in a City park to be determined.

Some points discussed:

The question of transport costs was raised. The City will incur these costs but the amount is not yet known. This gift is a great opportunity but these costs should be known before approving this resolution.

Attorney Turner stated the transport costs have not yet been discussed. The Legal Dept. was waiting for the BOR approval of this resolution before finalizing a bill of sale, which would transfer title to the City. Ms. Colatrella is aware that the City will incur these costs.

Director Murray stated there would be minimal ongoing maintenance costs required, as with other similar sculptures in Stamford. If this sculpture is placed in a City park, he assured the Committee that his department would take care of the routine maintenance.

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<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp: 01:25:05

A motion to recommit Item #4 to Steering was made, seconded, and failed by a vote of 2-3-0 (Reps. de la Cruz and Kuczynski in favor; Reps. Matheny, Gilbride, and Weinberg opposed).

There was discussion about getting information on transport costs before the May 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, and Chair Matheny committed to getting this information.

A motion to approve Item #4 with the condition of determining the transport costs before the May 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Matheny, de la Cruz, Gilbride, Kuczynski, and Weinberg in favor).

Chair Matheny adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Matheny, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)