



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

Linda Cannady, Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2010

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

**Place:** Republican Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center,  
888 Washington Boulevard

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. Present were: Chair Cannady and Committee Member Reps. DePina, Fedeli, Franzetti, Neary and Taylor. Absent/excused were Committee Member Reps. Heaphy, McGarry and Pia. Also present were Reps. Caterbone, DeLuca and White; and Mickey Docimo, Parks & Recreation Superintendent; Laurie Albano of Parks & Recreation; Thomas Lombardo, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair; Pepe Barbarotta of the Board of Education; and Mike Sullivan of E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Commission.

| <b>Item No.</b>             | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Committee Action</b>             |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2. <a href="#">PR28.002</a> | APPROVAL; and APPROVAL of public hearing for 2010 season rate increases for E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Course. | <b>COMMITTEE APPROVED<br/>6-0-0</b> |

Chair Cannady called for a motion to suspend the rules to take up an item out of order (No. 2 on the Agenda). Said motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Cannady, Fedeli, Franzetti, Neary and Taylor in favor).

Mr. Sullivan explained the changes (see attached proposed rates) and indicated that the Parks & Recreation Commission had approved the proposed rates. Mr. Sullivan stated that these changes should bring in about \$20,000 in additional income, and rates have not been raised since 2008.

Chair Cannady explained that this vote would be for approval of the rates and approval of holding a public hearing next month. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the item was approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Cannady, DePina Fedeli, Franzetti, Neary and Taylor in favor).

1. [PR28.001](#) REVIEW; use of turf fields for sports other than soccer.

**REPORT  
MADE**

Chair Cannady asked for a brief explanation as to how new teams can arrange for field use. Ms. Albano and Mr. Docimo explained that in this case, last year, an individual requested the use of West Beach fields for lacrosse. These fields are not suitable for lacrosse playing, and the request was denied. This individual was referred to the Board of Education for availability of its fields, and was accommodated by the Board of Education (see attached [list](#) of lacrosse field use).

Mr. DeLuca stated that he was unaware that the individual had made arrangements with the Board of Education at the time he submitted this item for the agenda.

Ms. Albano stated that the lacrosse program should have first gone to the Parks & Recreation Commission for sanctioning, which is the requirement before fields are allocated to a league.

Mr. Albano also gave a detailed explanation on the middle school sports program that was instituted as a feeder program to high school sports. The youth lacrosse program is sanctioned as part of the middle school program, and it has about 250-300 children participating. Originally, the program only wanted fields immediately after school. As time went on, the program expanded, and they are now increasingly in need of additional field time on weekends and during other peak times.

Mr. Docimo explained about the moratorium, which is a process for the Parks & Recreation Commission to allocate remaining fields.

Ms. Albano stated that it is the Parks & Recreation Department's goals to accommodate all Stamford children who need field time, and no one is ever denied a field if one is available.

3. PR28.003 REVIEW; allocation of city sports playing fields.

**REPORT  
MADE**

Mr. Docimo and Ms. Albano explained that there simply is a lack of fields for the number of teams that request them. In order to establish a system, they prioritize field assignments by 1) the leagues with the largest number of Stamford children; (Stamford Youth Soccer comes in first); 2) well-established teams that provide playing time for all participants; and 3) new teams on a space-available basis.

Ms. Albano explained that the new teams are often initiated by parents who for one reason or another are not satisfied with the existing, established leagues.

Another of the Recreation Department's goals is to maintain the success of the existing (or, legacy teams), and as such, they do not encourage the establishment of new teams that drain talent from existing leagues while increasing the need for field use.

Rep. Taylor stated that during her campaign, she clearly felt that field use was an issue of importance to many of her constituents. She also felt strongly that there should be some system in place whereby new teams that are created for whatever reason, be accommodated. Ms. Albano replied that her department always gives available field time out to new teams.

Mr. Docimo explained that the fields that are managed by the Board of Education are completely separate from the management of the city fields. The city fields are free of charge to youth teams; the Board of Education charges for use of its fields. Several members of the Committee felt that this situation should be looked at in terms of potential consolidation, with the City managing all sports fields (including Board of Ed fields).

Chair Cannady noted that Mr. Pia indicated he would be looking into this possibility via his work on the Board of Education and asked that the Committee re-look at this issue in a few months.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cannady, Chair