



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

Linda Cannady, Chair

Patrick White, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. Present were Chair Cannady, Vice Chair White, Committee Member Reps. DePina, Franzetti, Heaphy, McGarry, Pia and Taylor. Excused was Committee Member Rep. Fedeli. Also present were Reps. Caterbone, Day, Summerville; Mike Pensiero, Jack Condlin and Roger Fox, Harbor Management Commission; Thomas Lombardo and Joseph Andriana, Parks and Recreation Commission; Arthur Selkowitz, Mill River Collaborative; and approximately 16 members of the public as noted on the attached sign-in sheet.

Chair Cannady called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PR28.007	RESOLUTION; <u>and public hearing</u> approving a fee schedule for boat moorings.	Approved, as amended, 5-3-0

Roger Fox, the Chairman of the Stamford Harbor Management Commission read a statement regarding the proposed boat mooring fees, a copy of which is attached. A copy of the proposed Harbor Management Commission budget is also attached. Chair Cannady then opened the public hearing. Members of the public who spoke were James Ryan, Chris Hynes, Rich Lyons, Maureen Boylin, Julius Magyari and Pat Buzzeo. Topics raised included:

- opposition to the fees
- concerns over the size of the fees
- questioning whether it is appropriate to charge fees to members of clubs who are already responsible for the expense of maintaining the boat moorings
- questioning how the fees will be used
- questioning whether a multi-mooring permit fee should be charged to clubs with multiple moorings.

The public hearing was closed.

The committee then discussed the proposed fees. Representative White noted that the Commission has the authority to request that the Board approve mooring fees, but as an initial fee, \$75 is too large. He stated that in his experience boaters in Stamford maintain their moorings well. He suggested a \$25 initial fee. In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Fox explained that the Harbor Master is a state employee, but is only paid \$1500. He stated that many municipalities give their harbor masters additional compensation in order to get additional services from them. Norwalk pays their Harbor Master an additional \$10,000. He noted that the Stamford Marine Police have requested a greater Harbor Master presence in order to increase safety, and that the Commission would like to implement an online mooring program so that owners could be contacted easily in the event of a problem with either their boat or an approaching storm. His understanding is that Stamford is the 4th busiest commercial harbor in the State. A motion to amend the resolution to reduce the fee from \$75 to \$25 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-3-0. (Representatives White, Franzetti, McGarry, Pia and Taylor in favor. Representatives Cannady, DePina and Heaphy opposed.) A motion to approve the resolution as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-3-0. (Representatives White, Franzetti, McGarry, Pia and Taylor in favor. Representatives Cannady, DePina and Heaphy opposed.)

3. [PR28.008](#) RESOLUTION; approving the naming of Cummings 1 field at Cummings Park after George Ritchie. **Approved, as Amended, 8-0-0**

The committee next considered item PR28.008. Representatives Pia and Day spoke in favor of this resolution, noting Mr. Ritchie's dedication to Stamford and the recreation program. It was noted that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommendation to the Board was to name both Cummings 1 and Cummings 2 fields at Cummings Park. A motion to amend the resolution to approve the naming of both Cummings 1 and Cummings 2 fields at Cummings Park after George Ritchie was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote. (Representatives Cannady, White, DePina, Franzetti, Heaphy, McGarry, Pia and Taylor in favor.) A motion to approve the resolution as amended was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote. (Representatives Cannady, White, DePina, Franzetti, Heaphy, McGarry, Pia and Taylor in favor.)

2. [PR28.005](#) REVIEW; update on Mill River Park and Greenway **Report Given**

Arthur Selkowitz of the Mill River Collaborative gave the committee an update on the Mill River Park and Greenway. He first reviewed the history of the Collaborative, which was established in 2002 as a public/private partnership with the intent of creating a world class park in the center of Stamford. This partnership was subsequently memorialized with a formal contract with the City which establishes the roles of the parties, while recognizing that the park is owned by the City. Under the contract, the Collaborative is required to raise \$200,000

per year for operating costs. The expectation is that the City will match the contributions received.

Mr. Selkowitz described the current status of the park, including improvements which have been made and those which are anticipated in the near and distant future. He noted that during the current storms, the work done on the park was able to contain flood waters between Broad and Pulaski, as intended. This will reduce flood insurance costs for downtown property owners. The Army Corps of Engineers will be finished with its part of the project, including planting 77 new trees, in June. The design for Phase I, which encompasses the area from Main to Broad, is almost complete and will go out to bid during the 3rd quarter of 2010. Contracts will be awarded in 1st quarter 2011 and the work is expected to be complete at the end of 2012. This includes planting over 400 trees, and installing pathways, lighting and irrigation. Currently there is no funding for the carousel, skating rink or trellis.

He described the current funding gap of \$3-4 million, which is partly due to a reduction in City funding from the requested \$2 million to \$1 million. Private funds are not currently sufficient to fill this gap. They will bid out the project with options to address this funding gap. He noted that the operating budget for next fiscal year will increase because the Army Corps of Engineers will be finished and will no longer be covering any of the maintenance costs. In addition, the City cut its contribution to \$100,000. This amount will not be viable on an ongoing basis. The Big Apple Circus will be coming to the park for 3 weeks in July, and the Collaborative will be holding a benefit and a gala in conjunction with this to raise money for the park.

The Collaborative has also begun to approach local corporations for funding its capital budget. The single biggest impediment to getting donations is the question of whether the City will continue to support this project. The Collaborative will be coming to the Board in the near future re: naming opportunities. A copy of the Mill River Collaborative Budget and potential naming opportunities is attached as an exhibit.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cannady, Chair