



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

Patrick White, Chair

Report of Meeting & Public Hearings

Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2012
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard

The Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair White, Committee Member Reps. DePina, Heaphy, Merritt, Taylor and Pia. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Franzetti and McGarry. Also in attendance were Laurie Albano, Acting Parks & Recreation Director; Michael Sullivan, EG Brennan Golf Course; Denis McKiernan, Terry Connors Ice Rink; and Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations.

Item No.	Description	VOTE YES-NO-ABSTAIN
1. PR28.026	RESOLUTION; <u>for public hearing & final adoption</u> ; increasing the beach/park permit fees from \$20 to \$30.	Committee Approved 4-1-1

Chair White opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Ginger Winston spoke on behalf of the Cove Neighborhood Association, which is in agreement with the new fees and the extended season (see attached [letter](#))

Matthew Haine expressed his opposition to the fee increase and understands that there has not been an increase in years, but felt 15% is too much.

Chair White closed the public hearing at 7:44 p.m.

Rep Taylor asked exactly what the parking fund is set up to do. Mr. Orgera explained that the parking fund is set up to fund cashing and permitting; enforcement; parking structures; parking lots; on street parking meters; park police and bonds for the Summer Street garage. It creates about \$6 million in revenue a year for the City.

Rep. Taylor asked if there is a way to steer some of this money back into the beaches. Mr. Orgera explained that some of the money goes into the general fund and the general funds supports the parks. The more money that goes into the parking fund means more money to contribute to the general fund.

Rep. Heaphy stated she is concerned about the impact the 5 months of restrictions at Cove Island will have on those who do not purchase tickets.

Chair White stated he cannot support this proposal because residents pay taxes, have experienced tax increases, and he feels this is something the citizens should have as part of those taxes.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a voice vote of 4-1-1 (Reps. DePina, Merritt, Pia and Taylor in favor; Rep. White, opposed; Rep. Heaphy abstaining).

2. [PR28.030](#) RESOLUTION; **for public hearing & final adoption**; approving new E. G. Brennan Golf Course fees. **Committee Approved 6-0-0**

Mr. Sullivan spoke briefly regarding the fees, adding that they had to be creative with the rates. They decided to break down rates to encourage people to utilize the facility in more off peak times by introducing a midday rate.

At 7:58 p.m. Chair White opened the public hearing. No members of the public were present, and the public hearing was closed.

Rep. Taylor asked what percentage of play is non-resident. Mr. Sullivan stated 25% is non-resident play.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a voice vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. White, DePina, Merritt, Pia, Taylor and Heaphy in favor).

3. [PR28.031](#) RESOLUTION; **for public hearing & final adoption**; approving the 2011-12 Terry Conners Ice Rink Fees. **Committee Approved 5-0-1**

Mr. McKiernan stated he streamlined the fees which makes it much easier at collection time.

At 8:03 p.m. Chair White opened the public hearing. No members of the public were present, and the public hearing was closed.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a voice vote of 5-0-1 (Reps. White, Merritt, Pia, Taylor and Heaphy in favor; Rep. DePina abstaining).

4. [PR28.032](#) RESOLUTION; **for public hearing & final adoption**; approving a new tournament fee proposal for use of ballfields. **Committee Approved 6-0-0**

At 8:07 p.m. Chair White opened the public hearing. No members of the public were present, and the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Albano explained that a charity tournament can last several days and occupy several

fields. The proposal is now per day and per field - \$100 per day for non-profit tournaments and \$250 for all others. Ms Albano stated that these prices do not include Little League or Babe Ruth leagues as they are not charged.

The committee was concerned about renegade games and enforcement by the police. Mr. Orgera explained they do not have the budget for park rangers; as for the police checking the fields, they do not have access to the database which has all the permits for legal games. Mr. Orgera agreed to further investigate providing that to the police. He did ask the Board of Education to watch their fields.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a voice vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. White, DePina, Merritt, Pia, Taylor and Heaphy in favor).

5. [PR28.033](#) RESOLUTION; **for public hearing & final adoption**; approving summer camp fee increases. **Committee Approved 6-0-0**

Ms. Albano explained that camp fees have not increased in 5 to 6 years. The increase should bring in an additional \$30,000.

At 8:16 p.m. Chair White opened the public hearing. No members of the public were present, and the public hearing was closed.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a voice vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. White, DePina, Merritt, Pia, Taylor and Heaphy in favor).

6. PR28.029 PROPOSED ORDINANCE; **for publication**; amending the Harbor Commission ordinance to clarify BOR fee approval language. Law Department

A legal opinion was distributed responding to a question of conflict of Interest on the part of two members of the Harbor Commission and whether or not the Board has the authority to amend fees that were proposed by the Commission. Chair White encouraged the Committee members to read over the opinion. Chair White stated the Harbor Commission received a copy of the legal opinion today; the Commission is also meeting tonight. He suggested that the Committee wait and see what the Harbor Commission has to say regarding this matter.

Chair White adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Patrick White

This meeting is on [video](#).