

MINUTES
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission
June 9, 2021 / 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

- a) Commissioners: Bilella, Kendra, Ring
- b) Director of P&R: Pierce
- c) Ex Officio: None
- d) Public: JD Freda

Absent:

- a) Commissioners: Macken, Guglielmo

I. Call to Order – Bilella called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

II. Approval of Minutes for May 12, 2021 – Ring made a motion to approve, Kendra seconded.
Approved 3-0-0 (Macken and Guglielmo absent.)

III. Correspondence – discussion and/or action

- None

IV. COVID-19 Updates – discussion and/or action

- Pierce stated that all activities progressing well. Spring sports seasons wrapping up and were successfully carried out with COVID protocols in place. Awaiting State final plans for future P&R meetings as in-person or continue Zoom. Zoom allows much more flexibility for members who travel. From public perspective, allows for more participation. Pierce to pass along Commission feedback to First Selectman's Office that preference is to continue Zoom through end of the year, if permissible.

V. Memorial Day Weekend P&R Events Recap – discussion and/or action

- Pierce informed the Commission that the poor weather caused Saturday and Sunday to be a wash-out. Monday cleared and attendance was good at P&R's Merwin Meadows event – pizza truck, ice cream truck, and a live band (all free of charge.) Gave out over 300 pizzas and ice creams. Kudos to the P&R staff for all their coordination and efforts.

VI. Wilton Track – discussion and/or action

- Track Replacement Efforts Update – Pierce shared that the new surface will be laid down over the blacktop on June 21. Communication/notice will be given after graduation via social media, email blast, and Town's website. Stadium to be completely closed June 21-July 16 – inclusive of the field. Any foot traffic on the surface will damage it. Monitors will be in place. Future maintenance will be handled using utility carts and fencing around the track is getting updated to minimize non-use traffic to extend the life of the track and minimize wear and tear. This will not impact emergency vehicle access when/if needed.

VII. Indoor Field House Project Concept Exploration Update – discussion and/or action

- Pierce advised that the feasibility study being performed by Stantec. P&R will be working off purchase order and proposal with Terms of Agreement being reviewed by Town's Legal

Counsel. Signatures should be forthcoming next week. 8-10 weeks needed to complete the study. Targeted to start next week. Study will begin with Geotech.

VIII. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action

Pierce reported:

- Parks & Grounds Report
 - Seasonal staff will all be onboarded this month. A focus will be on field maintenance, trimming, and additional fencing for the stadium.
 - P&R looking into purchasing a utility cart (covered by current budget) to avoid vehicles on the new track. Supply chains for materials continue to be delayed and seeing price increases.
 - Kregg Zulkeski (Administration Manager) is certified in camp, CPR and water training and has been able to train our staff. This has been hugely valuable due to labor shortages and delays in training that other organizations have been experiencing.
- Recreation Report
 - Comstock use has picked up.
 - Field use and requests are increasing – tournament organization interest for girls and boys lax.
 - Potential for Off-Broadway ticketed program coming to Comstock at end of the summer – more info to come next month.
 - Programs seeing good registration. Good pace and camps are doing well. Merwin passes \$60 per family are still available, \$175 non-resident passes are sold out.
 - Benches at Merwin Meadows that were pulled out and moved by the water by people have been reinstalled in concrete to prevent future issues.
 - Using operating budget to put in water softening system to prevent future staining and corrosion of fixtures. After the season will look to replace fixtures.
 - Fully staffed with 24 lifeguards.
 - Currently in CT, masks are still required indoors for camp but awaiting future updates from the State. NY & NJ have already removed the indoor mask mandate for camps.
 - Camps opening June 21st; last Friday of June MLB's pitch, hit and run contest to win a trip to Major League game.
 - WHS Graduation prep happening this week. New power that is part of the track project is installed and ready for use. All activities end by 11:00 am Saturday for graduation set-up. Using glider chairs on the field to prevent damage and eliminates need for plywood flooring.
 - Shaw rep coming to do depth measurements at the stadium and Lilly Field.
 - P&R summer events coming up include live bands in July & August at Schenk's Island and Merwin Meadows (4 dates in total.)

IX. Member Comment – None

X. Public Comment – None

XI. Adjourn – Bilella moved to adjourn the meeting, Ring seconded. **Approved 3-0-0** (Macken and Guglielmo absent.) Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.