

MINUTES
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission
September 9, 2020 / 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

- a. Commissioners: Bilella, Kendra, Macken, Ring
- b. Director of P&R: Pierce
- c. Ex Officio: None
- d. Public: Frank Lee, Joel Castro

Absent:

- a. Commissioners: Guglielmo

I. Bilella called the meeting to order at 7:41pm.

II. Approval of Minutes for July 8, 2020 – Motion made by Ring, seconded by Kendra. **Approved 3-0-1** (Macken abstained due to absence from July meeting; Guglielmo absent tonight.)

III. Correspondence – discussion and/or action

- No correspondence.

IV. COVID-19 & Phase 2 Updates – discussion and/or action

- Pierces reported that Merwin Meadows is open to Wilton residents seven days a week with monitors from 9:00 am-7:00 pm. There were over 1,000 passes, serving 263+ Wilton households thus far this season. On average P&R are seeing daily 80 people on weekends and 60 on weekdays, which is below the 100-limit set. Proper social distancing is happening.
- Pierce stated this year's summer camp was a success with on average 32 campers per week. P&R was approved by the State to have up to 80 campers but never did. Campers' temperatures taken daily before entrance. Full-time nurse on staff. Disinfected restrooms every two hours. Art & crafts were done with individualized kits. Outdoors equipment was share within groups only and disinfected after each session. No COVID reported amongst campers. One parent of a camper who works in healthcare tested positive for COVID, so P&R shut down that classroom immediately and for the remainder of the week. Deep cleaning was done. The parent was found to have a false positive and when tested again was negative; that camp classroom was then able to be reopened.
- Programs offered during Phase 2 have been successful, such as tennis, baseball, running, and dog obedience training classes. Porta-potty was put at tennis courts for program only, also disinfected every two hours. Basketball-outdoor courts remain closed and will not reopen until State, EOC (Emergency Operating Committee) and Town Health Director provide recommendation to do so, this includes playgrounds.
- Pierce worked with various youth associations and boosters to help them with their protocol plans for ultimate approval from the Town's Health Director for sports to start in late July. Pierce also worked with the WHS AD to support WHS protocol plans for all Fall sports.
- P&R has assisted with the recent storm damage, and Comstock was opened for community use (free) for AC and power source with sign-ups through its e-Track system.

- Pierce shared that Phase 3 opening has been pushed out and no timeframe provided yet by the State of CT.

V. Remote Learning at Comstock – discussion and/or action

- Pierce advised that his department started planning early this summer in anticipation of supporting the community, especially working parents. 32 participants are taking advantage of the offering mirroring the school schedule - Mon/Tue (15), Thurs/Fri (17) w/ Wed optional (7). Ages are K-6; majority are Miller-Driscoll. Monitors are adults and college students & graduates. The offering is ongoing, as needed.

VI. Wilton Track – discussion and/or action

- Track Replacement Efforts Update – Pierce shared that they are refining documents with Stantec and looking to wrap up final details to present next month to P&R Commission. It's unclear whether the bonding will be put up for public vote this November or at another date.

VII. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action

- Parks & Grounds Report – Pierce informed the Commission that the Fall field schedule is in motion. Waiting on WHS for field needs; grounds are all prepped. HS team sports still in discussion with CIAC, as game protocols are TBD but training has been approved. New woodchips on playgrounds. One seasonal staff member will stay on until Thanksgiving, which will be very helpful with the various efforts in progress. EOC not permitting third party use of Wilton facilities still. EOC is engaged during times of emergency; meets three times a week.
- Recreation Report – Pierce reported that this year's summer camp was a significant lift for the P&R staff, but the outcome was successful. The department is now focused on possible programs for the winter and preplanning has begun. Availability of Wilton schools' facilities is a key aspect of P&R's programming success, which is an unknown at the current time.

VIII. On-going Business – discussion and/or action

- Wilton Athletic and Recreation Foundation Update – Pierce shared that the organization had to repair some banners damaged from the recent storm.
- Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Committee Update – None. Pierce to follow up with the committee.

IX. Member Comment

- Macken asked if P&R will have net positive revenue from the remote learning offering. Steve advised no, given the costs required to maintain COVID protocols in labor, supplies and cleaning, however, could break even. Priority was to provide a service to the community.

X. Public Comment – None

XI. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn made by Ring, seconded by Macken at 8:23 pm. **Approved 4-0-0** (Guglielmo absent.)