

MINUTES  
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission  
December 9, 2020  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

- a. Commissioners: Bilella, Guglielmo, Kendra, Macken, Ring
- b. Director of P&R: Pierce
- c. Ex Officio: None
- d. Public: Grace Bracken (representing Good Morning Wilton)

- I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chairperson Bilella at 7:32 pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes for November 11, 2020 – Motion made by Ring to approve, seconded by Macken. Vote taken. **Approved 3-0-2** (Guglielmo and Kendra abstained because absent from Nov meeting.)
- III. Correspondence – discussion and/or action
  - Pierce stated that the SIMM Committee and WARF sent updates. SIMM Committee is on hold, and WARF has little going on during the pandemic but are repairing loose and torn banners.
- IV. COVID-19 & Phase 2.1 Updates – discussion and/or action
  - Pierce reported that many winter P&R programs have been cancelled/postponed due to COVID restriction limit of only four persons. Sports programs are paused until January 19, 2021 when CIAC will reassess. If State allows programs to recommence, P&R programs could be restarted. All programs are on hold until further notice.
  - Pierce reported remote learning program still ongoing at Comstock, although low attendance. Afterschool care attendance is also low.
  - Pierce reported that the Town will be offering COVID tests to town employees, first responders, and residents at Comstock. Fee is \$90. Date is Friday, December 11, 2020 from 8 am -12 pm. Sign-up is online, and link can be found on P&R website. Pierce reported that over 167 people had registered for testing as of December 9, 2020.
- V. Park Benches/Potential Offering Idea – discussion and/or action
  - Guglielmo reported on proposal to establish a fund-raising event or creating a private funding effort to purchase and gift to the town benches for pre-select town locations. Guglielmo identified numerous locations and types of benches already exist but there are potential additional locations where benches could be added. Pierce reported on status of existing benches and would seek to get an inventory of locations. Pierce will discuss and liaise with First Selectwoman regarding this idea for a potential offering and then identify proper locations and bench-type options. Pierce and Guglielmo to start exploration and provide an update at January 2021 P&R Commission meeting.
- VI. Dog Park Exploration Update – discussion and/or action

- Pierce is awaiting update from the CT State Rep who will be coordinating with DOT to schedule a meeting.

#### VII. Wilton Track – discussion and/or action

- Track Replacement Efforts Update – Pierce reported to Commission on proposal and timeline to proceed to submit proposal to the National Bid Board. Bid document is currently under review. Macken asked to ensure the financial penalty clause is included in the bid document, as he did not see it during his initial review. Target date if no spring sports, project could start early April and be completed by mid to end of June. If spring sports proceed, start date would be June 14 (after graduation), to be completed in early September. Discussion regarding timing of track installation, potential to have the track installed so that fall sports are not impacted. Further discussion regarding attempt to compete track as soon as practicable. Discussions by Pierce with BOE, Superintendent, and AD to be had to in the near term to define project start date. Back the Track committed to donating to the project cost; Pierce to get donation total from Back the Track for next meeting.

#### VIII. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action

- Parks & Grounds Report – Pierce reported that P&R are continuing to work on fall clean-up and are prepping for winter. P&R recently put up the lights and decorations in town. Staggered hours for staff continue as to mitigate risk.
- Recreation Report – Pierce advised programming is extremely limited. A drive-thru holiday event at Comstock is scheduled for Friday, December 18, 2020 from 4-6:30 pm. P&R will safely be handing out candy, and there will be prizes, staff in costumes, and holiday decorations – similar to the Halloween drive-thru event that P&R hosted in October. P&R will also host a festive, online gingerbread house making contest. All events will be communicated to the public shortly. Varsity baseball field complete, re-sodded for spring. Additional work done at MB1, sod to hold clay and work being done to repair Merwin Meadows fields, sod replacement and field level. Pierce stated that request through Town's app was made to add trash cans to tennis courts. Town has carry in/carry out policy, because the State's requirements are too burdensome financially with the amount of resources it takes to meet the requirements. In the past it took over a material number of man-hours to trash removal, costing the Town significant money. The cost and resources required makes there no viable option to change prior decision at this time.
- Pierce reported that next fiscal year's budget items will be coming shortly, for review by Commission during the January meeting.

#### IX. On-going Business – discussion and/or action

- Wilton Athletic and Recreation Foundation Update – On hold due to COVID. Banners repaired as required.
- Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Committee Update – On hold due to COVID.

#### X. Dates for 2021 Regular Monthly Meetings – discussion and/or action

- Bilella provided proposal for 2021 P&R Commission regular monthly meetings. Dates proposed: 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12, 6/9, 7/14, 9/8, 10/13, 11/10, 12/8. Motion made by Kendra to approve, seconded by Ring. Vote taken. **Approved 5-0-0.**

XI. Member Comment – Kendra thanked Pierce and the entire P&R Staff for a tremendous job during this last year. Macken echoed the sentiments.

XII. Public Comment – None.

XIII. Adjourn – Guglielmo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Macken seconded. Vote taken. **Approved 5-0-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

**From:** [Bilella, AnnaMarie](#)  
**To:** [minutesandagendas](#)  
**Cc:** [Pierce, Steve](#); [Kendra, Jennifer](#); [Ring, Kevin](#); [Macken, John](#); [Guglielmo, Joseph](#)  
**Subject:** FW: WARF  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:59:13 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Please post with 12/9/20 Minutes to the Town's website.

Thank you.

Anna Marie  
917-513-8982

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**From:** Pierce, Steve  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:09 AM  
**To:** Bilella, AnnaMarie  
**Subject:** FW: WARF

FYI

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**From:** JR Sherman [mailto:[jrsherman88@gmail.com](mailto:jrsherman88@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 12:22 AM  
**To:** Pierce, Steve  
**Subject:** Re: WARF

Thanks for reaching out about WARF Steve! While there isn't much to update on, I can certainly share the state of things.

We've stepped back a bit in light of the pandemic and cancellations of athletic competitions both in the Spring and the Fall seasons. We moved into more of a maintenance mode this year, which included a reduced number of banner checks/repairs, etc. In fact, a group will be heading to both stadiums this week to repair loose and torn banners from this week's storm. Oh, also... I had removed the larger banners from the south side of Lilly Field at the beginning of the Soccer season to allow parents to view games from the parking lot, and we're planning to rehang them come Spring.

Charitable Foundation status with the State and Feds as well as WARF's tax filings are all in order and up to date for this year, and we plan to resume the marketing to and invoicing of sponsors as we determine the status of Spring seasons.

It was unfortunate to lose this year as the program was accelerating nicely, but we'll get things back on track in the Spring.

Let me know if you and/or the commission have any other questions.

Thanks again Steve.  
JR

On Thu, Nov 12, 2020 at 10:48 AM Pierce, Steve <[Steve.Pierce@wiltonct.org](mailto:Steve.Pierce@wiltonct.org)> wrote:

JR,

Last evening at the Parks and Recreation meeting the commission asked me to check in with WARF to see if there are any updates they should be aware of, such as program continuation or expansion, thoughts on signage during Covid, etc.

If you have a minute please let me know.

Steve

**From:** [Bilella, AnnaMarie](#)  
**To:** [minutesandagendas](#)  
**Cc:** [Pierce, Steve](#); [Kendra, Jennifer](#); [Ring, Kevin](#); [Macken, John](#); [Guglielmo, Joseph](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SIMM Committee  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:59:55 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Please post with 12/9/20 Minutes to the Town's website.

Thank you.

Anna Marie  
917-513-8982

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**From:** Pierce, Steve  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:47 AM  
**To:** Bilella, AnnaMarie  
**Subject:** FW: SIMM Committee

FYI

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**From:** Conklin, Mike  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:46 AM  
**To:** Pierce, Steve  
**Subject:** RE: SIMM Committee

Lynne told me that all SIMM stuff is on hold so we have not had any meetings.

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**From:** Pierce, Steve  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:41 AM  
**To:** Conklin, Mike <Mike.Conklin@WILTONCT.ORG>  
**Subject:** SIMM Committee

Mike,

Looking forward to 2021, has the SIMM committee met recently and/or have any implementation plans for next year?

Thanks

Steve