

MINUTES  
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission  
March 9, 2022 / 7:30 PM  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

- A) Commissioners: Bilella, Kendra, Guglielmo, Macken
- B) Director of P&R: Pierce
- C) Ex Officio: None
- D) Public: Nick Gemelli (guest speaker), Chandra Ring (guest speaker), Jason Partenza, Meaghan Baron, J.D. Freda (Zoom names used)

Absent:

- A) Commissioner: Ring

- I. Call to Order – Bilella called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes for February 9, 2022 (Regular Mtg) & March 1, 2022 (Special Mtg) - Kendra made a motion to approve the February 9, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes, Bilella seconded. **Approved 3-0-0** (Macken was late to meeting). Guglielmo made a motion to approve the March 1, 2022 Special Meeting minutes, Bilella seconded. **Approved 3-0-0** (Macken was late to meeting.)
- III. Correspondence – discussion and/or action
  - Pierce received an email from resident, Sheila Wakoff, asking about Merwin Meadows summer pavilion use policy and sharing an observation she made one day last summer when a large group was using the pavilion for an extended period. Pierce shared with the Commission the P&R Dept.'s policy and procedures and will continue to keep an eye on usage.
  - Pierce received an email from WBSA (Ryan Quinn) advising that they would like to gift a JV batting cage, turf for the JV and Varsity batting cage and two extra hitting mats as well as the installation of all, totaling \$16,637.39. This would be targeted to be installed in late May. P&R would handle the removal of the old equipment. Guglielmo thanked the WBSA for such a generous gift offering. Bilella made a motion to approve that the gift be forwarded to the BOS for its consideration, Macken seconded. **Approved 4-0-0.**
- IV. Youth Sports Coalition Update (Chandra Ring & Nick Gemelli) - discussion and/or action
  - Guest speakers Gemelli and Ring provided a presentation and has a discussion with the Commission on their newly formed coalition by volunteer presidents of various Wilton not-for-profit youth sports organizations, titled 'Wilton Sports Fields Facilities Coalition.' Gemelli and Ring provided an overview of the coalition's mission, vision, formation timing, and examples of projects the group is thinking about. They shared that the group is looking to drive a shared community vision for Wilton's sports fields, facilities, and multipurpose play spaces for the benefit of all. It aims to work in cooperation and partnership with multiple groups, including WARF, P&R, Town leaders, BOE, BOF, WPS administrators, the WHS Athletic Department, and high school boosters. Focus is modernizing and enhancing the community's field, facilities and play space infrastructure with views of making the Town a

more attractive place to be, as well as supporting local businesses. Types of projects the coalition are considering are maintenance, annual projects, and long-term projects.

- Ring shared that the group has engaged with community members that want to donate to this type of cause and are seeking to organize these members.
- Gemelli and Ring advised next steps are for the coalition to define its partnership in greater detail with WARF and to continue to grow its engagement with various groups and volunteers. They will contact Pierce and Bilella when more details are defined, and they are able to provide another robust update to the Commission.

V. P&R Request to BOS for Funding Update - discussion and/or action

- Bilella provided a quick recap on the request made on behalf of the Commission at the BOS meeting on March 7, 2022. Commissioners thanked Pierce and Bilella for their efforts and organization.
- Pierce reminded the Commission that other departments' requests will be made at the March 21, 2022 BOS meeting.

VI. Drainage & Irrigation Project Update – discussion and/or action

- Pierce advised that a draft RFP is ready for the first stage of the project - design stage - if/when the funding is approved.

VII. Lightening Detection System Update – discussion and/or action

- Pierce shared that the system installation began today (March 9, 2022) and expected completion is in the coming week. Communication to the public will be sent by the Town once it is completed.

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

- Pierce informed the Commission that the exploration is still on hold, but he is hopeful this will begin to move forth again in the coming weeks.

IX. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action

Pierce reported:

- Parks & Grounds Report:
  - One new hire starts next week. The second hire is in the vetting process.
  - Nets and screenings get put up next week.
  - Field lining/painting is now getting ready to happen before spring season begins.
  - P&R is seeing a large number of applicants for seasonal jobs.
- Recreation Report
  - Program Head saw immediately upon release, very strong registration activity with summer programs, especially camp.
  - ETrak 2.0 goes live on April 1, 2022. Communication to the public will be sent.
  - Pierce along with Mike Conklin have met with four playground vendors to discuss designs for Merwin Meadows and Schenk's Island.

X. Member Comment – None.

XI. Public Comment – None.

XII. Adjourn - Bilella made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm, Kendra seconded.

**Approved 4-0-0.**

