

MINUTES
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission
October 12, 2022 / 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

- A) Commissioners: Bilella, Guglielmo, Kendra, Macken
- B) Director: Pierce
- C) Ex-Officio: Knickerbocker
- D) Public: None

- I. Call to Order – Bilella called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes for September 14, 2022 – Macken made a motion to approve, Bilella seconded. **Approved 3-0-0** (Kendra late to meeting so did not vote.)
- III. Correspondence – discussion and/or action
 - Pierce received an email from John Ragazzini supporting the idea of adding pickleball courts in Wilton. Pierce shared with the Commission that he has high-level estimates from a court vendor and a lighting vendor that the cost for installation and lights would be approximately \$150K. Additional costs are expected for site work. Locations still to be reviewed further but Pierce mentioned possible locations such as the empty lot near the WHS tennis court parking area and Merwin Meadows (eastern end near soccer field). Pierce to explore more.
- IV. Commission Update – discussion and/or action
 - Guglielmo has resigned from the Commission and tonight's meeting is his last. Chairperson Bilella has resigned her position on the Commission, effective December 1, 2022. Kendra will exit the Commission at the close of the year when her term ends.
- V. WHS Complex Mitigation Plan Update – discussion and/or action
 - Survey work is in progress by Stantec and funding is in place for Phase 1. Phase 2 is still awaiting approval based on possible State and Federal level grant funding.
- VI. Middlebrook Drainage & Irrigation Project Update – discussion and/or action
 - RFP draft is under review by the Town. Anticipate one month for RFP to go out.
- VII. Merwin Meadows Playground Replacement Options – discussion and/or action
 - Pierce shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Commission, which showed examples of four different vendors' designs for three different price points - \$150K, \$175K, and \$210K. Commission is in favor of advancing to an RFP at the \$175K price point, which is also what was approved for ARPA funding by the Town earlier in the year. The Commission is in agreement that there are three out of four very solid vendors with great play space options. Guglielmo made a motion to recommend that the Town/BOS consider moving forth with contracting (inclusive of an RFP, as required) at the \$175K approved ARPA funding level. This was seconded by Kendra. **Approved 4-0-0.**

VIII. Staff Reports – discussion and/or action

Pierce reported:

- Parks & Grounds Report:
 - October 13 is the kick-off meeting with online communication software vendor (Civic Rec) and the system's anticipated launch is January 2023.
 - Bathrooms at the WHS stadium are now open on weekends (Sat & Sun) from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm. The cost will be funded by the Town, not the youth groups using the fields. Will be in next year's fiscal budget.
 - Grass is recovering nicely on the various fields with the return of the rains. Plans in place for the resodding of the varsity baseball and softball fields in the coming week(s).
 - Scarecrows to go up tomorrow in Town - estimated 47-50 scarecrows this year.
- Recreation Report:
 - Fall programs are up and running successfully.
 - Basketball registration has started.
 - Afterschool enrollment numbers are up, double 2021 numbers.

IX. Member Comment

- Kendra asked Pierce for P&R to check on the soccer goal in the back field at Merwin Meadows. Looks broken and want to assess for safety and determine if it should be disposed of.
- Macken reported that Football staff has requested the stadium turf be looked at as they feel it is significantly compacted. P&R will review this and the potential need for any additional grooming.
- Bilella welcomed Matt Knickerbocker to the Town and thanked him for joining this month's Commission meeting. She invited Knickerbocker to join anytime and welcomed any additional agenda topics he has in the future.

X. Public Comment – None.

XI. Adjourn – Bilella made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm, Guglielmo seconded.
Approved 4-0-0.