

## Parks and Rec Minutes 7/12

Meeting called to order 8:17 PM after delays for zoom issues

Minutes from 6/21 meeting were approved

Correspondance; none

WARF presentation: JR Sherman and Nick Gemelli

1. Nick introduces himself as field and facilities liaison / head of WYFC and JR Sherman as President of WARF
2. History of WARF - non profit whose goal is to help improve the recreational experience of all those who live in Wilton. It was started in 2018 as a board to sell banner space to raise money to help fund field improvement. Combined with youth sports commission which was formed to work with town to improve fields after Hurricane IDA damage in 2021.
3. WARF board contains 11 volunteers representing many sports
4. WARF is more than youth sports. Worked with ASML, town and private / public to improve recreation in town. Not just kids. Cricket, ultimate frisbee as examples. Want to bring more recreation to Wilton in all age groups.
5. Started with turf because BOS and P&R asked them to start there but now looking to broaden horizons
6. Main goals are to improve the experience of people in town and create value. IE let kids practice under lights, help find field space for youth FH. Sports organizations overall - kids and adults - have nowhere to go because we have no lights on most fields. Hope to drive long term value, by spending money wisely to create revenue for town in future
7. Goal is to work with Town of Wilton to set priorities across many different interests and speak with one voice.
8. Success to date: banner program. Will continue to be annual revenue source 40-60K as it stands; will evaluate projects down the road; will commit and deliver money for town to help with turf studies and turf replacement; will solicit NCAA Lax games (Harvard vs Bucknell next spring.)

Board questions included how P&R can better partner with WARF, understanding how gifts from WARF work re; town allocating gifted funds, and how we can share priorities. Also inquired about which groups are not under WARF (baseball, hockey, basketball) and if there was a plan for them to join. We also discussed ASML and their recreation leagues and what they are donating / looking for from the town.

\*\*Nick and JR had to repeat presentation due to zoom issues

Kristine Lilly Lining conversation

Reviewing questions:

1. Would lines prevent CIAC playoffs for other sports? Bobby Rushton said 3 fields would be fine. 4/5 would be an issues.
2. Is their field space? Schedules are being reviewed. Soccer is very random for game schedules. This time on Lilly would be in addition to stadium time.
3. Lynne suggested 2 separate votes. On to allow and one if WYFH should have to pay or if town should.
4. The board voted unanimously to approve FH lines to be added to Lilly Field
5. We agreed to have a later, deeper discussion about cost enters for adding temporary lines to fields.

Playground update: Andrew Maria

1. Tweaks discussed to proposal; some changes were sent to creative. Plan is to meet with Creative, walk the site and discuss drawings, structure, size. Current delivery date would be November, completed by March if contract signed today. Main change is adding a level to one structure to adding more for 5-12 age group and adding more slides and bridges.

Discussion of facility improvements / commission priorities

Steve: Guy Whitten lighting and irrigation: would have to add irrigation to keep field healthy and would work well when we add drainage this winter. Steve can call design firms to get quotes. We also need to consider lighting options and costs. Another issue is storage. Can we add a multi-use facility for storage that offers other things to help benefit community as well? Which organizations need storage? Baseball, Field Hockey, youth football, P&R, HS, guessing soccer, LAX.

Commission agreed we need to move to bring the idea to get estimates for the irrigation and lights to get process rolling. Lynne suggested we coordinate with DPW since project already underway and we could potentially just add on to that project. It was mentioned that we should also investigate adding lights to Allen's Meadow to make those fields usable in the evenings in the fall.

John Macken suggested each member come up with list of priorities for our commission. Consider everyone in town. Steve will forward list made by previous commission.

Staff reports

Steve: been busy, camp going well, wait lists are full but there are staff limitations.

July 4th town celebration was successful. 82 runners in the 5K, all agencies worked together well. We had to cancel a concert Sunday 7/10 due to weather, rescheduled for Aug 13. Circus this weekend and working on fall programming. Open to ideas.

Andrew Maria asked for a list of programming to help find gaps; also asked for stats on sign up rates to know which ones are successful. Also mentioned the idea of adding TV to broadcast the Women's World Cup Soccer.

Geese at Merwin Meadows staying away because of pinwheels. Water quality is good. Non resident passes are sold out. New playground will help sell passes for next summer.

Public comment

Sara Curtis: highlighted that couldn't see earlier, problem solved