

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Wilton Parks & Recreation Commission
March 1, 2022 / 8:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

- A) Commissioners: Bilella, Guglielmo, Kendra, Ring, Macken (joined late at 8:28 pm)
- B) Director of P&R: Pierce
- C) Town Engineer & Director of DPW: Smeriglio
- D) Public: J.D. Freda, Kathy Bonnist (Zoom names used)

I. Call to Order - Bilella called meeting to order at 8:02 pm.

II. Requesting ARPA and Infrastructure Funds for P&R Project Priorities – discussion and/or action

- Bilella summarized the purpose of this meeting, which is for P&R Commission in unison with P&R to agree upon an approach to requesting funds and to put forward a request to the BOS on March 7th for funding from the American Rescue Plan grant & BOS Infrastructure Fund.
- Bilella provided background including the funding available and the Town's already-defined key priorities of an emergency communications system (\$3-4M) and WHS Complex mitigation/new drainage plan (amount TBD). To date, Conservation Commission provided requests to BOS for several projects (totaling approximately \$470K). P&R will present a request to BOS on March 7th. Facilities Director will provide requests for town-owned building needs on March 21st. Also at the March 21st BOS meeting, Smeriglio will present the findings and recommendations for the WHS Complex mitigation/new drainage plan.
- Guidance provided - no one department will get approval for all requests.
- Pierce provided a chart of high-level estimated costs for the P&R Priority Projects List for the Commissioners to use in their decision-making process/recommendation for request.
- P&R Commission discussed with Pierce and Smeriglio the chart and project list, how to approach the funding request, and put forward a recommendation.
 - List of P&R Priority Projects under consideration was based on the previous list submitted in November 2021 to BOS, minus the WHS Complex mitigation/new drainage plan, which is already earmarked, are the following (in priority order):
 1. Improve Drainage and Address Irrigation Across All Fields with Potential Issues
 2. New Turf Field with Lights
 3. Upgrades to Merwin Meadows Complex
 4. Dome/Indoor Field House at Comstock
 5. Enhancing/Upgrading Existing Fields
 6. Dog Park
- Commission recommended the following:
 - Phase 1 of Improved Drainage and Irrigation Project: \$705K. Rationale: The Middlebrook complex (made up of five fields) has most critical need for drainage and irrigation to preserve these Town assets.
 - Portion of Funds for New Turf Field with Lights: \$200K for design + \$500K earmarked for new turf field construction – totaling \$700K. Rationale: This is a highly desired and needed amenity. Having both design and some portion of

construction allocated shows good faith to the community thus, inspiring and enabling private fundraising with some certainty of completion

- Phase 1 of Upgrades to Merwin Meadows Complex: \$250K for 5-12 age playground with new fence. Rationale: this area is heavily used year-round and has a critical need for replacement due to significant degrading of fencing and key structures in the play area.
- Guglielmo made a motion to approve the recommendation, Kendra seconded. **Approved 5-0-0.**

III. Member Comment – None

IV. Public Comment – None

V. Adjourn – Bilella made a motion to adjourn, Ring seconded. **Approved 5-0-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

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P&R Project Priority List High-level Estimated Costs						
1) Improve Drainage and Irrigation						
Fields	Design		Irrigation		Drainage	Total
Phase 1						
Middlebrook 1	\$	12,000	\$	20,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 132,000
Middlebrook 2	\$	12,000	\$	20,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 132,000
Middlebrook 3	\$	12,000	\$	20,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 132,000
Middlebrook Football	\$	12,000	\$	40,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 152,000
Nick Madaras	\$	12,000	\$	45,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 157,000
Phase 1 Totals	\$	60,000	\$	145,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 705,000
Phase 2						
Allen's Baseball	\$	12,000		N/A	\$ 100,000	\$ 112,000
Miller	\$	12,000	\$	20,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 132,000
Phase 2 Totals	\$	24,000	\$	20,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 244,000
Phase 3						
Guy Whitten	\$	8,000	\$	40,000	\$ -	\$ 48,000
Comstock Soccer	\$	12,000		N/A	\$ 100,000	\$ 112,000
Phase 3 Totals	\$	20,000	\$	40,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 160,000
Total Project Costs	\$	104,000	\$	205,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,109,000

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2) New Turf Field with Lights	Design	Construction	Total
Based on a flat area with little excavation and good subsoils	\$ 200,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,200,000
3) Upgrades to Merwin Meadows Complex	Design	Construction	Total
Phase 1			
Replace 5 to 12 Age Playground w/ new fence	Included in Constr #	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Phase 2			
Renovate Bathhouse/Guard Shack	\$ 45,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 395,000
Total Project Cost	\$ 45,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 645,000
4) Dome/Indoor Field House at Comstock	TBD	TBD	Being Studied
5) Enhancing/Upgrading Existing Fields	TBD	TBD	Being Studied
6) Dog Park	Design	Construction	Total
1 acre location	\$ -	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
- Assumes level, non-complex, developed location identified			
- Note that no current location identified as feasible			
All Project Costs - Except Dome & Enhancing/Upgrading Fields			\$ 3,994,000