

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, March 18, 2021
4:00 P.M.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2021, via Zoom in attendance were:

Committee:

Norris Muth- Chairperson
Tessa Antolick- Vice Chair-Absent
Jerry Learn-Secretary-absent
Dr. Shawna Doerksen
Connie Puckett
Bill Keough
Rob DeMayo
Rick Tetzlaff

Staff:

Centrice Martin, Assistant to the Manager
Summer Brown, Recording Secretary
David Pribulka, Township Manager

Others in attendance: Aaron Miller, Patton Township Resident; Madhavi Kari, Ferguson Township Resident; Patti Higgins, Ferguson Township Resident; Laura Dininni, Ferguson Township BOS Chair; Chris Sacksteder, Ferguson Township Resident; Kristine Schwab, Ferguson Township Resident; Jeremie Thompson, Ferguson Township Planning Commission Chair; Michele Stine, Ferguson Township Resident; Lori Miraldi, Ferguson Township Resident; Darynn Flango, Ferguson Township Resident; Josh Wede, Ferguson Township Resident; Tyler Bennington, Ferguson Township Resident; Steve Miller, Ferguson Township Resident; Kristin Knowles, Ferguson Township Resident; Lisa Strickland, Ferguson Township BOS member; David Stone, State College Resident; Jada Light, Centre Region Parks & Recreation; Pam Salokangas, Centre Region Parks and Recreation; Zack Moore.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Norris Muth called the Thursday, March 18, 2021 Park and Recreation meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

III. EVALUATION OF FERGUSON TOWNSHIPS PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM

Mr. David Pribulka explained that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) has proposed a discussion be had about the responsibility for maintenance and operation issues of our local park systems. Mr. Pribulka stated that this can be resolved by either a separate agreement or memorandum of understanding with the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department or if further evaluation is warranted.

The BOS has directed staff to provide requested information, staff has met to develop this information, once all information is gathered it will be presented to the BOS. Mr. Pribulka stated that the social media posts that Ferguson Township will be withdrawing from the Parks program is inaccurate and not even a discussion the BOS has had at this point. Information has been requested and that is all at this time. This timeline was included to show the possible next steps. The BOS has not committed to or discussed a policy directive. Mr. Pribulka stated that today he would like to achieve just having the Parks Committee review the proposed framework and gather feedback. Mr. Pribulka reviewed the items that need to be reviewed and what can be handled by PW and Parks and Recreation.

Dr. Muth opened up for Committee comment, Mr. Rick Tetzlaff stated that this took him by surprise and believes that by looking at the timeline there isn't enough time for this to be under consideration.

Ms. Laura Dinnini wanted to reaffirm what Mr. Pribulka has said. Ms. Dininni stated that her opinion is that this was placed prematurely with this Committee in the way it's been perceived. Ms. Dininni reiterated that there is no timeline at all and this is a request for data that has been requested for years. These are questions that have been asked over the years that the comprehensive study did not answer which is why we're here. Dr. Muth stated that the state of this agenda item is very preliminary. Dr. Muth stated that he knows that there are a lot of participants on this meeting that have lots of thoughts but he would like to avoid this meeting to turn into a discussion on something that isn't even happened yet.

IV. CITIZEN'S INPUT

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Muth called for a motion to approve the February 18, 2021 minutes. Dr. Shawna Doerksen moved to accept as written, Mr. Tetzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. BIKE ROUTE MARKING – VALLEY VISTA SHARED USE PATH TO TUDEK PARK BIKE PATH

Dr. Muth stated the Ferguson and Patton Townships have been working together on this agenda item. Ms. Martin stated that Ms. Susan Wheeler prepared this and staff's engineers will be preparing documentation for the sharrows. Mr. Tetzlaff stated his concerns regarding traffic and inquired if a traffic study has been done. Ms. Martin stated that this bike route has been presented in the Centre Region Bike Plan and Ms. Wheeler has done research and followed state guidelines. Ms. Martin stated that this project will be completed in the spring. Ms. Susan Wheeler stated this connector is a great addition and the sharrows will be a good educational marker. This will help educated bicyclist and motorist getting from the bike path to the valley vista shared use path. Ms. Martin stated that staff met last week and discussed they see no reason why Ferguson Township can't participate in this.

Dr. Muth stated that he would like more clarification before a motion to approve can be made including safety issues. Ms. Connie Puckett made a motion to approve the bike route marking, Mr. Tetzlaff seconded the motion, the motion was denied 3 to 2 with Dr. Doersken abstaining from the vote. Mr. Pribulka stated that the Committee's questions can be addressed and this agenda item can be brought back to the Committee at the April meeting.

VII. SUBURBAN PARK UPDATES

Ms. Martin stated that she wanted to notify the Committee of some engineering updates regarding Suburban Park. Ms. Martin stated that equipment pictures are included in the agenda. Ms. Martin stated that she would like achieve a recommendation of the equipment for the update. The Committee discussed the equipment and had some questions regarding the four person piece equipment. Ms. Martin stated that staff would also like to remove the rock wall and plant trees as a barrier. Ms. Martin also noted that Kiosk options are being looked at as part of the update.

VIII. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

Ms. Martin stated that the Committee reviewed this last year and a subcommittee was formed and reviewed the draft document. Since then the BOS, CRPR and staff have reviewed comments. This is a pre-final draft of the document. This document can go in front of the BOS as earlier as April. Ms. Martin the reviewed the Green Infrastructure Policy definitions and park classifications with the Committee. Ms. Martin also explained the process of the green infrastructure policy. Dr. Doerksen made a motion

to recommend the Green Infrastructure policy to the BOS, Ms. Tessa Antolick seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BIKE MONTH

Moved to the April agenda.

X. FUTURE SUMMER MEETINGS

Dr. Muth reviewed the summer meetings with the Committee. Dr. Doersken made a motion to approve the summer meeting locations, Mr. Rob Demayo seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

XI. REPORTS

1. STAFF REPORT

No new reports.

2. CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY REPORT – MR. BILL KEOUGH

Mr. Keough stated that in the past the Authority has leased outdoor space at three schools because there was a need for additional fields needed for youth sports. Mr. Keough stated that the demand is no longer there so the Authority will not be renewing their leases this year. Mr. Keough also noted that a contest was held regarding the rental of portable restrooms, and the Authority has approved a contract. The Authority also reviewed youth scholarships for the year. Mr. Keough also noted that there has been no new progress with the Whitehall Road Regional Park because the next step lays with the municipalities.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Muth entertained a motion to adjourn the Thursday, March 18, 2021 Parks and Recreation meeting at 5:45 pm. Dr. Doerksen made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Demayo seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



JERRY LEARN, SECRETARY
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE