

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, August 12, 2019
4:00 P.M.**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its meeting on Monday, August 12, 2019, at Suburban Park. In attendance were:

Committee:

Niki Tourscher, Chairperson,
Andrew McKinnon, Vice-Chair
Kathie Vondracek, Secretary
Shawna Doerksen-Absent
Connie Puckett
Norris Muth
Denise Myer

Staff:

David Pribulka, Township Manager-Absent
Centrice Martin, Assistant to the Manager

Others in attendance were: Summer Krape, Recording Secretary; Jim Carpenter, CRPC; Laura Dinnini, Ferguson Township Resident/BOS member.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Niki Tourscher called the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to order on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 4:01 pm.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2019 MEETING

Mrs. Denise Myer made a motion to approve the July 8, 2019 minutes and Ms. Kathie Vondracek seconded the motion.

V. FERGUSON TOWNSHIP CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Ms. Martin stated to the Committee that the Board of Supervisors did not approve the breakup of the \$100,000 allocated to Homestead Park. Instead they would like to keep the \$100,000 for Homestead Park and adjust separately. Ms. Martin stated that the BOS moved the Solar Array at the Whitehall Road Regional Park from 2020 to 2021. The BOS also moved the Fairbrook Park master plan update from 2022 to 2021 and the Fairbrook Park native landscape planting to 2022. The installation of the compost toilet from 2020 to 2022. Ms. Martin stated that pavement wash out areas in parks reduced to \$20,000. Mr. Modricker and Ms. Martin had a discussion and Mr. Modricker stated that there are four pavement areas in Tudek Park that need fixed. Ms. Martin put back the \$40,000 to pave the areas in Tudek Park. Ms. Tourcher noted that in 2022 there is still \$10,000 for water fountains, Ms. Martin stated that she saw that and has emailed Mr. Eric Endresen the finance director omit that. Ms. Tourcher made a motion to approve the changes, Mrs. Myer made a motion to approve and Ms. Connie Puckett seconded the motion.

VI. COMPOST TOILET INSTALLATION IN TOWNSHIP PARK

Ms. Tourcher explained that the Committee has been asked by the BOS to consider a location for a compost toilet. Ms. Martin stated that staff has discussed this and they feel that Fairbrook Park may be a good area for this. Mr. Keough asked what size foot print this facility will have. Ms. Martin stated that Mr. Pribulka and Mr. Modricker have researched and found a model but she is not familiar with the size. Mr. Jim Carpenter from CRPR stated that it is a one stall facility. Mrs. Myer asked what a compost toilet is. Mr. Carpenter stated that he has a lot of experience with compost toilets from his previous

employment. Mr. Carpenter stated that they do have their draw backs, they are very similar to a porta potty. There is some misconception that they do not require a lot of maintenance and they do. You have to clean the compost waste out about once a year. A septic company will need to come suck the waste out. You can spread it on your own field however, some states have regulations regarding spreading this waste. Unfortunately, these compost toilets are notorious for being set on fire. Mr. Carpenter stated that they are good in remote areas but not good in high traffic areas. Mrs. Vondracek asked what the price on this would be. Ms. Martin stated that there is \$25,000 set aside but this is a high estimate. Mrs. Vondracek asked how much it is for us to continue with the porta potty's. Mr. Carpenter stated that they are on a two year contract at \$85/month. Ms. Tourcher stated that maintenance staff will need to clean compost toilet. This would involve cleaning the unit its self and having someone go in the hole and level the waste to encourage composting and removing the waste once a year. Ms. Martin stated that this is a 2022 project so we can table this for the next meeting when Mr. Pribulka is present to answer any questions. Ms. Tourcher suggested the Committee also talk with some state parks to get their experiences with these facilities. The Committee decided to table this until the September meeting so they can get their questions answered. Ms. Tourcher made a motion to table this topic until September meeting, Mrs. Myer motioned and Mrs. Vondracek seconded.

Ms. Laura Dinnini stated that she reserected the idea of a compost toilet specifically for Fairbrook Park. Fairbrook Park is out of the sewer source area, so they can't have a flush toilet there. However, this park is a high use area.

VII. TREE BUFFER ZONE AT CECIL IRVIN PARK

Ms. Martin stated that there has been some complaints from a resident that is dissatisfied with the weed growth. The mowing hasn't been done in this area and it has become an unofficial grow zone. No signage has been posted in this area. Mr. Pribulka met with Mr. Modricker to discuss possible options to address this. They came up with four options: scenarios the Township arborist prepared, do nothing and just let it continue to grow tall like we have, mow it regularly, or have it as a cash crop and engage a third party to grow corn. Mr. Muth stated that he has observed that there is one resident that has mowed out further than all the other residents in that area. Mrs. Vonsracek asked what this person would like to see happen, just mow it down or did they have a suggestion. Ms. Martin stated that she does believes there was just complaint brought forth no suggestion of an outcome. Mr. Carpenter stated that staff did talk about not mowing/mowing the field less at the meeting in February but nothing ever came of it. CRPR could mow one pass if staff could mark the boundary lines. Ms. Tourcher suggested this might be a possible solution and some education. Ms. Dinnini asked what is intended in the masterplan after the small area plan is in place. Ms. Martin stated that trails, parking, and an entrance off of Nixon Road will be put in and there will be a great deal of excavating. Mr. Muth stated he would like to know the exact nature of this complaint considering its only one compliant that we know of this would be a lot of money and work to appease one person. He would like to table this topic for the September meeting to hear the actual complaint and then decide on an action. Ms. Martin stated that there was an invitation extended to the resident who made the compliant so we can extend this invitation again for this meeting. Ms. Tourcher made a motion to table this topic and Mrs. Myer seconded the motion.

VIII. REPORTS

Ms. Martin wanted to note that the Song Bird Sanctuary events went well. Mr. Keough gave the CRPRA report. He stated that the Whitehall Road Regional Park phase one final land development plan has been submitted and is being reviewed. Three variance requests for this park was submitted and two of the three variances were granted. The two variances that were granted had to do with the caliper size of trees that are proposed to be planted. The denied variance had to do with the number of trees the

ordinance calls for. Mr. Keough reported that the audit that was done for the authority has been completed and it was an independent audit and no issues were found. Mr. Keough stated that Summer programs are beginning to wind down, he feels they have been successful but won't get the full report until the September or November meeting. Mr. McKinnon wanted to touch base on the caliper issue again, this has come to him numerous times with all the discussion that is going on with the Pine Hall forest. Mr. McKinnon spoke about the carbon value of the bigger sized trees. Carbon sequestering. Mr. Muth stated that he is hopeful that there is an upside in the size difference and if we are going to be picky in the species we choose.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Muth asked if the Township has a list of appropriate trees and plants to plant. Ms. Dinnini stated that there is a list but it is very outdated but he should ask staff for it.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the Parks and Recreation Committee adjourned at 5:00 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathie Vondracek', is written over a horizontal line.

KATHIE VONDRACEK, SECRETARY
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

