

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020
4:00 P.M.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020, via Zoom in attendance were:

Committee:

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

Staff:

Centrice Martin, Assistant to the Manager
Summer Brown, Recording Secretary

Others in attendance: Hanna, Juanita College Student; Laura Dininni, Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors member/resident.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Norris Muth called the Thursday, October 15, 2020 Park and Recreation meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Muth called for a motion to approve the September 17, 2020 minutes. Dr. Shawna Doerksen noted that there is a location that Mr. needs to be changed to Ms. The minutes passed unanimously with one correction.

V. FAIRBROOK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Ms. Martin stated that in 2019 the Township's playground inspector, Mr. Jeff Ressler performed an inspection on the playground equipment and determined that the equipment will either need to be repaired or replaced. Staff performed a site visit and is strongly recommending that the equipment be replaced. Attached in the Committee's agenda packet is two options and renderings. Staff is recommending option two as it will have less impact on the trees/tree root systems in the area. Ms. Martin noted that a cost estimate is included as well. The Committee reviewed the options. Dr. Muth made a motion that the Committee recommend option two, Mr. Jerry Learn seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. UPDATE ON iNATURALIST

Dr. Muth stated that he and his student Hanna spoke with the Committee previously regarding iNaturalist. Dr. Muth gave some background/history of what iNaturalist is and what it can be used for. Dr. Muth wants to get the committee acquainted with the program and get some feedback. Dr. Muth stated that a new project that was done by his students is that all of Ferguson Township's parks have been added with the exception of Songbird Sanctuary. When in iNaturalist you can see all of the pictures people have been taking in the parks. Dr. Muth explained that once a person takes a picture or an "observation" it is automatically added to the park that they are in. Dr. Muth explained that these observations can be listed in different categories. Dr. Muth stated that iNaturalist could be used to show people what amenities each park has.

Mr. Bill Keough asked if iNaturalist would allow an observer to tag a particular subject such as identifying invasive species. Dr. Muth stated that subject has lots of possibility and there is a couple different way it can be done. Hanna stated that iNaturalist may not be able to identify the invasive species but another user in the area can help identify and comment on the picture. Hanna explained scavenger hunts, the functions and other possible uses of iNaturalist to the committee. Mr. Tetzlaff stated that this could be used as a fundraising tool as well.

VII. REPORTS

1. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Martin stated that staff presented the BOS the drafted Green Infrastructure Policy. Staff received comment from the BOS and is compiling notes from the Parks Committee, Centre Region Parks & Recreation staff and the BOS. Ms. Martin stated that staff is continuing to work on a solution for the safety concerns at Homestead Park. Ms. Martin received notification from DCNR that Ferguson Township was awarded the Community Conservation Partnership Program grant which is a match for the construction of Suburban Park Phase 1. DCNR also recommended that the project be considered for federal funds, staff is currently working on preparing the materials to submit for federal funding.

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

Mr. Keough noted that the Centre Region Park and Recreation department is also involved with iNaturalist. Mr. Keough updated the Committee on the senior citizen center and the issues their currently having with operating with COVID-19 restrictions. Mr. Keough is happy to report that despite these restrictions the Centre is open and operating two days a week. Mr. Keough stated that the Whitehall Road Regional Park bid documents have been prepared and will be sent out shortly. Mr. Keough also stated that the funding for the park has been modified and they are \$2 million dollars short and is now in the hands of the elected officials in the region.

VIII. COMMUNICATION TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Martin stated that Mr. David Pribulka received an email from a resident regarding the Tudek Park grow zone and why it was mowed. Mr. Pribulka stated that there was a concern with allergens and it needed to be taken care of. Ms. Laura Dininni stated that she would also like to state that the Fairbrook park grow zone has negatively affected her and she doesn't normally have allergies and she can empathize with the decision to mow the Tudek grow zone. Dr. Muth stated that this is something the Committee will need keep in mind when discussing grow zone areas in the future.

IX. FUTURE REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

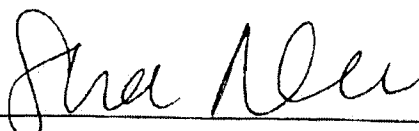
X. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ms. Tessa Antolick asked if the Committee needed to prepare anything for the end of the year/seasonal change. The Committee discussed this.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Muth entertained a motion to adjourn the Thursday, October 15, 2020 Parks and Recreation meeting at 5:25pm. Dr. Doerksen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Tetzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



SHAWNA DOERKSEN, SECRETARY