

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
4:00 P.M.**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 20 2020, at the Ferguson Township building. In attendance were:

Committee:

Norris Muth- Chairperson
Tessa Antolick- Vice Chair
Shawna Doerksen-Secretary
Connie Puckett-Absent
Robert Demayo

Staff:

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

Others in attendance were: Summer Krape, Recording Secretary; Camryn Bookhamer, Penn State Student; Jonathan Montresor, Penn State Student; Hannah, Juniata College Student; Jerry Learn, Ferguson Township Resident/Possible new member.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Tessa Antolick called the Thursday, February 20, 2020 Park and Recreation meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

Two Penn State University students are present to do research for a project on local government.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Antolick called for a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes. Dr. Shawna Doersken made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Norris Muth seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. RECEIVED RESIGNATION EMAIL FROM CHAIRWOMAN, NIKI TOURSHER

The Township received an email from Ms. Toursher to inform she is no longer able to serve on the Committee. The Committee will need to elect a new Chairperson. Mr. David Pribulka stated that he and Ms. Centrice Martin will be looking for another member of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Mr. Bill Keough stated that he had suggested at the last meeting the possibility of bringing on a youth member for a year/two year appointment. Mr. Pribulka stated that he will need to look into this more thoroughly to see if it's a possibility. Mrs. Antolick opened up elections for Chairperson. Mr. Muth nominated himself for Chairperson, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. UPDATE ON THE CENTRE REGION COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION. PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN REPORT

Mr. Muth stated that the Parks Committee will need to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors by February 28th. Ms. Martin stated that the deadline has been extended and this will be on the BOS agenda for Monday, March 2nd. Mr. Pribulka stated that the Board is interested in what the expectation of the municipalities & involvement of the municipalities and Board; it will be the municipalities' responsibility to fix park equipment or the regional parks authority. Mr. Muth stated that if the Committee has any comments they will need to be sent to Ms. Martin by February 28th. Mr. Pribulka stated that Ferguson Township & this Committee will be heavily involved with the Township's Recreation, Parks and Open Space plan which is a more localized strategic plan. Mr. Pribulka stated that staff will be working on the request for proposals in the coming months.

VII. UPDATE ON THE LOW-/MOW AREA AT CECIL IRVIN PARK

Mr. Muth stated that at a previous meeting the Committee heard comments from residents Ms. Ruth Cooper and Mr. Brian Rodgers regarding the low/no mow area at Cecil Irvin Park. The Township sent the residents of Sunday Drive a postcard to do an online survey for this area. Ms. Martin gave new members some history on the approved no mow/grow zone area, the benefits, and the history of the issue at Cecil Irvin's undesignated grow zone. Mrs. Antolick asked the Committee if these residents are concerned about invasive species in that area. Mr. Muth stated that the residents have multiple issues with the area such as uneducated on the species that are located in the no mow area, safety concerns, and just unpleased with how unattractive it is. Mr. Pribulka stated that the Township used to mow it every two weeks, and starting two years ago the Township started the twice a year mowing schedule. Mr. Pribulka stated that he would like to get a structural instructions for mowing in this area. Are we going to continue the no mow area, should we plan a more purposeful mix. Ms. Martin showed the Committee the post card that was sent to the residents to engage in the discussion of the low mow area.

VIII. INTRODUCTION TO iNATURALIST

Mr. Muth stated that he has brought Hannah a student from Juniata College to go over iNaturalist with the Committee. Hannah stated that she would like ideas from the Committee so they can create a park section of the app. She explained that there are different approaches to get people to go to parks and use iNaturalist. She stated that there could be different age groups and topics for certain items. Mr. Muth stated that he would like feedback from the Committee on what they would like to see. Mr. Keough stated that he would like to see one of the Township's parks become famous for this instead of all parks having this and it not being used. Mr. Muth stated that that is good feedback and starting with one park would be a great start. The Committee discussed possible pairings with schools/activities. Mr. Jerry Learn member of the audience suggested presenting this to the home school community as they do not have as many restrictions. Mr. Muth asked the Committee to think about why we are trying to input iNaturalist in the upcoming months. Mr. Demayo stated that over the Summer when he doesn't have anything to do with his kids he thinks it would be a good idea to pick a park and open a scavenger hunt in that park and do that for each park instead of focusing on just one park. Ms. Martin suggested partnering with Centre Region Parks and Recreation, they host multiple summer camp activities, she suggested getting in contact with Pam Salokanagas at Centre Region Parks and Recreation. Ms. Martin also stated that the Township would be willing to put any type of flyer on the website.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

X. FUTURE REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

XI. REPORTS

1. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Martin stated she can answer any questions regarding the staff report.

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

Mr. Keough stated that he attended the Ferguson Township Tree Commission and was listening to the discussion on outreach and education and he stated that he thinks it would be a good idea for the Parks Committee and Tree Commission to work together and do something for educational purposes and utilize the parks. He's asking the Committee to allow Ms. Martin to start discussion with the Tree Commission regarding a partnership. Mr. Keough

stated that there has been discussion for an action sports park in the region and it has been decided that that park will be High Point Park.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION

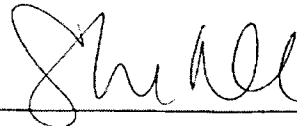
Ms. Martin that for new members this Committee does a parks tour and this year's plan is to do the tour in June.

Mr. Jerry Learn state that he attended the recent Coffee and Conversation where he spoke with Ms. Martin regarding the opening with the Parks Committee. Mr. Learn introduced himself to the Committee and the Committee introduced themselves to him.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Doerksen made a motion to adjourn the Thursday, February 20, 2020 Parks and Recreation meeting at 6:00 pm. Mrs. Antolick seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

SHAWNA DOERKSEN, SECRETARY
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE