

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**I. ATTENDANCE**

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 16, 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:**

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

Others in attendance were: Summer Krape, Recording Secretary; Ruth Cooper, Ferguson Township Resident; Pamela & Bryan Rodgers, Ferguson Township Residents; Laura Dininni, Ferguson Township Resident/Board Member; Phil Kolb, Ferguson Township Resident; Tom Ambrosa, Ferguson Township Resident; and Doug Loviscky, Ferguson Township Resident.

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Norris Muth called the Thursday, April 16, 2020 Park and Recreation meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**III. CITIZEN'S INPUT**

Mr. Muth welcomed everyone back after our long break and welcomed our new Committee members; Mr. Jerry Learn and Mr. Rick Tetzlaff.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Muth called for a motion to approve the February 16, 2020 minutes. Dr. Shawna Doerksen made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Robert DeMayo seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Ruth Cooper had a question on the minutes, she stated that Mr. Pribulka's statement that in the past the fields were mowed every 2 weeks/2 years ago it was mowed twice a year is incorrect. Ms. Cooper stated that the questionnaire that was sent to the neighbors of Cecil Irvin Park had the correct information that prior to 2019 the Township mowed 4-5 times a year prior to Memorial Day

The Committee discussed if this change needed to be corrected due to being on record. Mr. David Pribulka stated that minutes are to reflect the record.

**V. CECIL IRVIN PARK QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES**

Mr. Muth stated that the eleven residents that abut the undeveloped area of Cecil Irvin Park received a questionnaire regarding the mowing issue. The Committee is asked to discuss the results/comments of the questionnaire and make a decision. Mrs. Tessa Antolick stated that all comments received were unanimous in terms of preferred the option of mowing the undeveloped area the same the developed. Mr. Tom Ambrosa, Sunday Drive Resident stated that he does not see his name on the sheet but the unanimous decision is correct. Mr. Pribulka stated that if the recommendation from the Parks Committee is to move forward with mowing it regularly like in previous years it won't necessarily be mowed the same time as the developed areas. Centre Region Parks and Recreation mow the

developed parkland more frequently. Typically the Township's mowing crew will mow the undeveloped park areas roughly every two weeks. Mr. Pribulka noted that the Township will be restore the area it to the condition it previously in.

Mr. Doug Lowsicky a Ferguson Township resident that lives at 121 Sunday Drive thanked the members of the Parks Committee for their work. Mr. Lowsicky gave the Committee some back around on the undeveloped area and stated that this undeveloped area of the park was never intended to be a part of the park it was part of the subdivision, and the subdivision states that no lot should have grass higher than six inches. Mr. Lowsicky asked if the Township will keep the grass under six inches. Mr. Pribulka stated that it is the Township's intent to keep it under 6 inches. Ms. Cooper asked for her own personal clarification on where the undeveloped area is located. Ms. Cooper stated that for her own record is the Parks Committee referring to the area that is located at the end of the Sunday Drive resident's property all the way over to the field that is rented for crop production. Mr. Pribulka stated that that is the area and the Committee knows where it's located.

Mr. Jerry Learn asked for some history of the mowing issue at Cecil Irvin Park. Mr. Muth summarized the history and issues. Mr. Pribulka also commented on this and gave background on the Fairbrook Park no mow area. Mr. Ambrosa called into regard how close the no mow area at Cecil Irvin is to the residential homes and how it is different from Fairbrook Park. Mr. Ambrosa stated that a major concern for him are the varmints that come from the fields. Mrs. Laura Dininni stated that the Cecil Irvin Park no mow area did not go through a strategic and formal policy and did not go through public comment period like the Fairbrook no mow area did. The other difference is there is not close abutting residential properties at Fairbrook Park. Mrs. Dininni stated that an SOP would be a helpful map for areas like these. Mr. Muth entertained a motion to maintain the undeveloped are of Cecil Irvin Park as it has been previously maintained. Dr. Doerksen made a motion to maintain the undeveloped area of Cecil Irvin as it has been previously maintained as the Township is able. Mr. Rick Tetzlaff seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. DRAFTED STANDARD OPERATING POLICY (SOP)**

Mr. Muth stated that Mr. David Modricker the Ferguson Township Public Works Director drafted a standard operating policy for mowing parks and the Committee is asked to review and make comments. Mr. Pribulka stated that the Township would like to put this in front of the Board and have it general enough to implement will all of the Township's parks. Mrs. Dininni stated that she would like to see some expertise from the Parks Committee on when to mow, such as when the pollinators are in bloom, bugs etc. Mr. Pribulka suggested that the Committee table this to the next meeting so the Committee members have more time to review the draft. The Committee can reconvene in May and possibly have Mr. Modricker and Mr. Lance King present to answer any questions members may have. Mr. Muth stated that he would like to revisit this with Mr. Modricker present. Mr. Bill Keough stated that all of the Township's parks should have a mowing plan. He also asked if the Township's GIS could take a park like Fairbrook Park and do a layout so the Committee could look at this.

## **VII. REPORTS**

### **1. STAFF REPORT**

- i. Ms. Centrice Martin wanted to share that the Township is moving forward with DCNR grant for Suburban Park Phase 1 and that will be submitted on Tuesday. Mr. Pribulka stated that the Tom Tudek Trust is working with Centre Gives campaign this year and it will still be held as scheduled May 12-13th. Mr. Muth noted that he sent a letter on behalf of himself to support the DCNR grant for Suburban Park.

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

Mr. Keough stated that CRPRA is operating in a slow motion right now. The comprehensive plan has been completed and has been approved by both CRPA and Centre Region and is in the process of being distributed. The CRPRA meeting that was scheduled today was cancelled due to COVID and lack of agenda items.

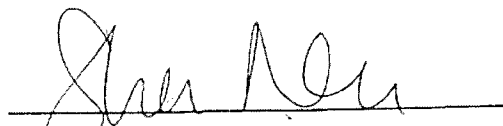
**VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Muth noted that his student Hannah Hock is still working on iNaturalist.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Shawna Doerksen made a motion to adjourn the Thursday, April 16, 2020 Parks and Recreation meeting at 6:00 pm. Mr. Rick Letzlaff seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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

SHAWNA DOERKSEN, SECRETARY  
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE