

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

I. ATTENDANCE

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

Committee:

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

Staff:

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

Others in attendance: Lisa Strickland, BOS member/Ferguson Resident.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Norris Muth called the Thursday, February 18, 2021 Park and Recreation meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Muth called for a motion to approve the January 21, 2021 minutes. Mr. Rick Tetzlaff moved to accept as written, Mr. Jerry Learn seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2021 CONTINUED

Ms. Martin stated that a list of goals was included in the agenda, this is a general list of items that staff is currently working on that she felt the Committee may be interested in participating in. The Committee reviewed the items. Ms. Martin stated that the Committee can assist staff with any of the items listed but can also include some of their own ideas for the 2021 goals. Dr. Muth also touched on making iNaturalist a goal for the Committee as he feels this program a good tool to engage with the public. Mr. Keough stated that the Township has recently passed a Heritage Tree ordinance and that would be another good way to get the public involved by having them go to Township parks and look for trees that meet the criteria and submit an application. Dr. Muth agreed that this is a good idea and would pair well with something else the Township is doing.

Ms. Martin stated that if members need more time to discuss goals, the Committee can meet next week. Ms. Martin stated that she can take all member input and compile into a one page work plan document to review at the next meeting. Dr. Muth suggested using Ferguson emails to share ideas back and forth. The Committee decided to form a subcommittee that will be made up of Dr. Muth and Dr. Shawna Doerksen who will compile ideas and forward to Ms. Martin who will compile for the entire Committee to review. Ms. Martin stated that once the goals are finalized she would like to publish on the Township's website so residents know what the Park's Committee will be doing and they can follow and give comments.

VI. PARK SURVEYING PROGRAM

Dr. Muth stated that staff would like the Committee to recommend one park for the park surveying program. Staff has suggest Suburban Park or Tudek Park for this program. Ms. Martin stated that a split rail fence will be put up to determine boundary corners, this will help identify who is responsible for things like tree maintenance, invasive species, over growth, etc. This will also create a more efficient process for Public Works. Dr. Muth asked if there was the possibility of push back regarding the fence, Ms. Martin stated that the fence will only be placed at the corners. The Committee recommended Tudek Park for the fencing

VII. BICYCLE ROUTE CONNECTION WITH PATTON TOWNSHIP

Ms. Martin stated that this is just an informational update for the Parks Committee. Patton Township reached out to Ferguson to see if there would be any interest in working on a shared use path with them to increase connectivity between the Townships. Ms. Martin stated that Ferguson has been receptive and plans to meet and discuss this opportunity with Patton Township.

VIII. FUTURE REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IX. REPORTS

1. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Martin reported that the Township was able to convert the stormwater basin in Tudek Park to a pollinator garden with the help of U.S Fish and Wildlife. Ms. Martin also noted that the Township Arborist has made a work plan to plant additional trees and shrubs in the basin. Ms. Martin noted that the Parks Committee's land development plan subcommittee had their kick off meeting that included, Mr. Tetzlaff, Mr. Rob Demayo, and Sergeant Hendrick of the Ferguson Police Department.

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

Mr. Keough reported that COVID has impacted many of the Authorities activites, but they have made changes to adapt, the Authority has shut off all drinking fountains with parks to help stop the spread of the illness. Mr. Keough stated that the Authority is reviewing the comprehensive study that was done last year and taking steps to move forward with projects in response to the plan. Mr. Keough also updated the Committee on the progress of the White Hall Road Regional Park.

X. OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Muth entertained a motion to adjourn the Thursday, February 18, 2021 Parks and Recreation meeting at 5:30 pm. Mr. Tetzlaff made a motion to adjourn, Dr. Doerksen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



JERRY LEARN, SECRETARY

FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

