

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, June 10, 2019
4:00 P.M.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting of the month on Monday, June 10, 2019, at Ferguson Township in Conference Room 2. In attendance were:

Committee:

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

Staff:

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

Others in attendance were: Summer Krape, Recording Secretary; Laura Dininni Ferguson Township Resident.

II. CALL TO ORDER

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2019 MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Vondracek and seconded by Mr. Muth to approve the April 22, 2019 meeting minutes.

IV. CITIZEN'S INPUT

V. CENTRE COUNTY STORY WALK INTRODUCTION

Ms. Niki Tourcher read the Centre County Story Walk narrative to the committee. The Story Walk is a literacy and physical activity tool that engages the community in reading children's books in unique environments. The stories will be on a series of signage that are 18x24 and each panel would have a two page story. The signs will be spread throughout a park so the reader can follow along by walking. Ms. Tourcher stated that the proposed locations in Centre County are: Bellefonte, Centre Hall, State College, and Phillipsburg. Autumn Wood Park is a possible story walk site location. Ms. Tourcher stated that she thinks this is a cool idea for parks and wanted to discuss this with the committee. Ferguson Township resident Ms. Laura Dininni was present and asked the group if it was possible to choose a local author. Ms. Tourcher stated she would be happy to look into this to see if that is possible. Ms. Vondracek asked how often the story would change and Ms. Tourcher stated they only have enough funding for one story.

VI. 2020 – 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PARKS & RECREATION)

Ms. Martin stated that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is currently being prepared by staff and she recently met with the Assistant Township Engineer Ryan Scanlan to check on the status of the 2019 projects and future projects that may need funding. Mr. David Pribulka wanted to note to the committee that a new jungle gym would be an example of a capital project and would be taken care of by the Township with the CIP budget. A pinch point in a park is something the park would be responsible for putting in. All Township department heads are working on their budget's right now, Mr. Pribulka and

the Finance Director will then meet with each department head to discuss their budgets. It will then be advertised for a public hearing in August and then approved by the Board of Supervisors.

It was suggested the committee do another road tour of the parks and start preparing a request and review it again at the July meeting. Mr. Pribulka stated that last year was the first year this committee did a road tour and he felt it was productive.

Ms. Martin went over the following 2019 CIP Project updates with the committee:

- Water Fountain project was an initiative, started about 5 years ago, to update Township water fountains in the park so they are ADA accessible. The Township Engineer said this summer the water fountain in Saybrook and Greenbriar Park is being replaced. The fountain in Haymarket Park will be the last one to be updated and that will be completed in 2020.
- Ms. Martin wanted to note to the committee that the Cecil Irvin Park had to be taken out of the CIP because we did not get the grant we applied for. She stated the Cecil Irvin Park will not be able to be added to the CIP until 2021 or 2022. Ms. Martin asked the Committee for comments on this. Ms. Dinnini asked Mr. Pribulka if it would make the grant more attractive for approval if the parking lot was connected to the trails. Ms. Dinnini stated she currently parks in the church parking lot to access the trails. Mr. Pribulka stated that he thinks connectivity is a big thing and there was a plan to connect the lot to the trails. All members were in favor of keeping Cecil Irvin Park in the CIP.
- Haymarket Park's pollinator garden is currently being done. Township Arborist Mr. Lance King is working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and other community partners, to complete this project. Once completed the committee will review and it will be taken off of the CIP.

Ms. Martin stated that she also met with the Assistant to Township Engineer Ryan Scanlan to go over some observations he has made that the Park and Recreation Committee may want to go over.

- Drinking fountains in Homestead Park will need to be replaced. There is a water line that needs a minor repair so when that is fixed the fountain will be replaced.
- Gravel in Fair Brook Park can be replenished along with the gravel on the trails and lower tot lot along with some toddler equipment
- There is a crack in seal on the baseball field at the Haymarket Park.
- The futures phases of Tudek Park will need to be completed.

Ms. Toursher asked if there was plans to use a DCNR grant for Cecil Irvin, Tudek, and Suburban Park. Ms. Martin stated that we can try to do a Community Economic grant for Suburban Park but they have hard guidelines. She noted that phase one is entirely to address stormwater drainage issues.

It was decided that the committee will do the road tour during the next meeting. Ms. Martin suggested members email her any thoughts they may have on park improvements and she will compile it and staff can put together a draft prior to the tour. The committee agreed.

VII. UPDATE ON SONGBIRD SANCTUARY MASTER PLAN.

Ms. Martin stated that the last meeting was very fruitful. The Committee prepared a list of park amenities and a drafted of a visual sketch. The list of park amenities include benches, boot station, dog deposit station, bird houses, dual loop trail consisting of a dirt path. Also included is an entrance point from Blue Course Drive that meets the dual loop and extends to the cul de sac. Ms. Martin shared that the Committee is planning to hold a public outreach event to update and involve community members especially the nearby neighbors.

VIII. REPORTS

Mr. Pribulka noted that the Centre Cares fundraiser was very successful and raised \$1,356.83 for the Tudek Memorial Trust. He also stated that the house sold for \$470,000 which is a good injection of capital into the trust. Mr. Pribulka stated that he was recently approached by a neighborhood that would like to turn there park over to the township. This is still in early discussion but he wanted to make the committee aware, it would need to be approved by elected officials and this committee would need to give a recommendation.

Ms. Martin stated that the Board of Supervisors adopted the Suburban Park master plan by resolution. We will be partnering with the Sustainability Institute to update the bike path and shared use facility. The first meeting will be held in July.

The Board of Supervisors would like to install two bike repair stations.

The Grow Zone signs have been installed at Fair Brook Park.

Mr. Bill Keough stated that the next Centre Region Parks Authority meeting will be June 20th at Autumn Wood Park (rain permitting) at 12:15 pm. The authority has put in a great deal of time and effort into the Whitehall Road Regional Park. They are working on outside fundraisers to raise money for the park. He stated that the soccer organization is actively involved in raising money to get the turf for the turf field. The Visitor Bureau has donated about two thirds of the money needed to light the fields. Mr. Keough also stated that he has seen the renderings and equipment for the handicapped and tot lot playground and it looks very nice.

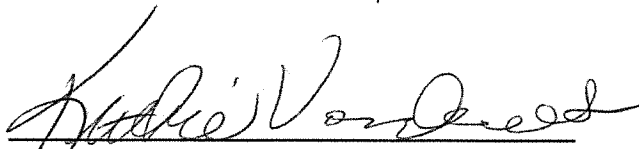
IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ms. Tourcher stated to the committee that next month's meeting will be a tour of the parks.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the Parks and Recreation Committee adjourned at 5:25 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathie Vondracek", written over a horizontal line.

KATHIE VONDRACEK, SECRETARY
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

