

TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

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Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes January 27, 2022 4:00 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board held its regular meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2022, via Zoom. In attendance were:

Committee:

Matt Heller, Chair
Paul Tomkiel, Vice Chair
Liz Grove
Jordon Robb
Shannon Holliday

Staff:

Centrice Martin, Assistant Township Manager
Jenna Wargo, Planning and Zoning Director
Kristina Bassett, Community Planner
David Pribulka, Township Manager

Others in attendance: Melvin Westerman, Allison Glenny, Steve Weaver, Henry Margusity

II. CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Heller asked the public any input. None was provided.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jordan made a motion to approve. Committee voted all in favor.

IV. ORGANIZATION

1. 2022 Work Plans for Sub-Committee Members

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. CECIL IRVIN PARK UPDATE

Ms. Martin stated that Parks committee took comments to engineering, but due to time constraints a commitment agreed to meet in January. DCNR grant cycle is currently open. IF we can apply for the 2023 grant cycle we will. Ends in Mid-April. However, Work Estimates (done by staff) are still outstanding for the next phase up for funding. Look for possible updates on estimates in February. Feasibility of meeting the grant deadline should be known by then. Will have to go to Parks Committee first, then up for review by PGMSAP AC.

2. FLAGS/STREETLIGHTS UPDATE

Street light ornaments are in the budget and the Committee needs to decide what they want to see. Ms. Wargo contributed as an idea—the streetlight flags in Athens GA, they did a call to local artists to design flags for the four seasons.

Mr. Heller asked the Committee for their ideas on flags or other ornamentation. Mr. Robb suggested that the theme to be supportive of PGM and the SAP that would attract people to the space, development, influx of residents

Ms. Grove suggested that the logo could be a part of that process. Mr. Robb suggested to establish a budget. Ms. Allison Glenn suggested Hometown Heroes from Pine Grove Mills. Mr. Pribulka suggested scheduling this for a future discussion item.

3. BLUE HOUSE BY POST OFFICE UPDATE

Ms. Wargo said that it has been added to the Official Map.

4. PINE GROVE MILLS SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

The Committee divided up the Action Steps described in the Small Area Plan based on general categories. As a reminder, the responsibility of each "champion" is to oversee their respective categories and ensure the Action Steps are prioritized and implemented in accordance with the goals described in the plan document. The following are the assignments for each Committee member:

Land Use/Regulatory – J. Robb

Street parking with confusing signs. Suggests a parking count and marking spots. The idea being to identify all the parking, then we can review the zoning to allow for the development to include on street parking in parking counts. IE: applicant can include X number of spaces within X feet diameter of the proposed business.

1. How to get count done
2. How do we get stripping into budget?
3. Penn DOT/ Mobility Study outcomes.

Mr. Robb talked to another resident that had a problem with properties in the Village district that rendered the property undevelopable. Lot size, coverage, setbacks....

Community Engagement/Events – L. Grove

Ms. Grove reminds the group that the PGMSAP has a Facebook page, please send content to Ms. Grove or to Centrice Martin. Ms. Grove talked about an Explore Pine Grove Mills program. Mural, Branding program, flag logo.

History and Heritage – S. Holliday

Ms. Holliday met with Carolyn Donnelson after she presented to PGMSAP as a follow up. She has pitched the idea to the producers and would like to feature Pine Grove Hall. Could the group provide 24 stories? At least 2 other options to consider if unable to get 24 stories. 1. Provide the producers with excerpts of what each story is about or 2. Keystones: These are digital short stories that only requires 7 stories or "keystones", which spotlight Pine Grove Mills.

Ms. Holliday mentioned the swift in trees as a story idea, the Pine Grove Hall/Tavern, The Naked egg... Ms. Holliday would like to start an excel spreadsheet on "stories".

Ms. Grove mentioned that she has a PGM Community in Action Book. There are dozens of names of people that could offer excellent stories. Mr. Heller created the spreadsheet and shared it with the group. Ms. Holliday asked the committee members for other ideas and the group brainstormed several.

Mr. Tomkiel said Carol Ziegler would be good and there are a lot story tellers in PGM.

Ms. Holliday asked that everyone add a little excerpt into the spreadsheet.

A blurb can be placed on the Facebook page asking for stories. Collect stories for a week and refine in week 2. The more stories offered the better.

Public Infrastructure/Multimodal Transportation – P. Tomkiel

Mr. Tomkiel shared a map prepared by McCormick Taylor showing the existing parking. Their parking study shows underutilization of existing parking. Final report in late April, early May. Mr. Heller says that the map could be wrong and Ms. Grove concurred. Mr. Tomkiel says that the study would show that we need more parking in the center of town. First 1000' of Town center. There were three areas of primary focus for pedestrian safety.

1. Blinker light (3 concepts – show public)
2. Meckley Drive and Route 45, at the entrance to Hillside Farms. Acting as a gateway, a traffic circle would slow traffic down and offer a place to welcome motorists to Pine Grove Mills. There is currently ample right-of-way making it easy to install a full size traffic circle.
3. Near the lions club, another “Gateway”, install a median to slow people down coming into town.

There was a discussion regarding mass transit, currently there are 3 CATA stops that get used the most. In 2018, CATA cut a lot of service/ridership to PGM. Looking to bring this back as we come out of the pandemic. The study would like to add a stop near the post office with a stylized bus stop to improve aesthetics.

Economic Development – M. Heller

How can we improve the local environment for business in the Village.

- a. Bank Closure – Mr. Tomkiel said this could be a serious issue for local businesses.
- b. Scale appropriate economic development

Others offered to serve as “co-champions” for certain categories, as well. Chair Heller created a web tracker to assist the Committee in its implementation. A link to the web tracker is provided below.

Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Action Steps Tracker

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY

As time was running short. Ms. Bassett briefly explained the charge of the Strategic Plan Survey and encouraged all committee members to fill out the survey and share it with other Ferguson Township residents.

Strategic Plan Public Opinion Survey: <https://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/strategic-plan-survey>

2. REVIEW OF DRAFT OFFICIAL MAP tabled

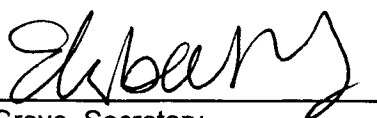
This review was tabled as the committee ran out of time.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Heller asked for a motion to adjourn – Mr. Tomkiel made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Robb seconded.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Liz Grove, Secretary

Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Committee