

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP
PGM Small Area Plan Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes September 23, 2021 4:00 P.M.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 23, 2021 via Zoom. In attendance were:

Committee:

Matt Keller, Chair
Paul Tomkiel, Vice Chair
Liz Grove
Shannon Holliday
Jordan Robb

Staff

Jenna Wargo, Planning & Zoning Director
Kristina Bassett, Community Planner
Centrice Martin, Assistant Township Manager

Others in attendance: Laura Dininni, Lisa Strickland, Carolyn Donaldson, Thomas Ambrosia, and Doug Lovisky.

II. CALL TO ORDER

The Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board was called to order on Thursday September 23, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

III. CITIZENS INPUT

Mr. Ambrosia has joined with interest in the Cecil Irvin Park Phase II Development discussion.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Minutes were not included for approval.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

Carolyn Donaldson (cdonaldson@psu.edu) —WPSU; Ms. Donaldson provided an update on the 'Our Town' program. They cover 24 counties with their program and have done 107 episodes. They highlight small towns in Pennsylvania and tell their stories. Next spring or summer to actualize this. Underwriters would be required for this type of coverage, typically this is received from businesses. Mr. Tomkiel likes the idea of expanding the 'area' of Pine Grove Mills (Rock Springs & Baileyville).

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. CECIL IRVIN PARK

Ms. Wargo introduced Ms. Martin to the group to discuss the Cecil Irvin Park Phase II Development Update. Ms. Martin provided a brief history of the park and where the Township is in the process. Ms. Martin presented a plan of Phase II, its future development proposed for 2023 as well as insight into the Township's Parks and Rec Committee discussions. The Township is planning to obtain a matching grant to help with the development of the Phase.

Feedback from the Committee and residents included the types of activities that are anticipated to be held at this park? Amphitheatre—theatre arts, small concerts, etc. There will be a pavilion to hold family events, birthday parties, and a walking trail. The Committee believes more parking will be required for this park, given the Masterplan as a whole. Vehicular access to the amphitheater should be provided to help with loading/unloading of equipment, as well as power/outlets. Utilizing the natural topography for the amphitheater is a good idea and constructing paths close to the amphitheater to ensure ADA accessibility need to be considered. All input will be provided to the Township Engineer for future designs.

b. PINE GROVE MILLS SMALL AREA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

Land Use/Regulatory: Mr. Robb is looking in to doing a parking study. The initiative would be to identify the needs, changes in zoning, and how to aid in easily communicating the current parking in place. Ms. Bassett provided a brief update on the context of the Pine Grove Mills Mobility Study and that parking spaces along Route 45 would be included. Mr. Robb requested that PZ Staff attend a future meeting to provide an overview of the Sign Ordinance and its impact on the Village.

Community Engagement/Events: Ms. Grove provided an update and is working on pulling out all events highlighted in the Small Area Plan and how parks, etc. can contribute to these events. Ms. Holliday will help Ms. Grove consolidate all events highlighted in the Small Area Plan.

History and Heritage: Ms. Holliday provided an update on History and Heritage and has collected a lot of historical information provided to Ms. Bassett. Ms. Holliday is looking into finding more information on the Pine Grove Mills baseball

team. Ms. Holliday wants to look into Swifts and Sweets further and utilizing that event to get more engagement in Pine Grove Mills.

Infrastructure: Mr. Tomkiel provided an update on the Pine Grove Mills Mobility Study and the process. First there will be a roadway safety audit—how safe is it to be a pedestrian in the village. There is a public meeting scheduled Thursday, October 7th at 6pm to obtain public input. Second, there will be a bicycle roadway safety audit on October 13th. There will be a working group meeting October 20th to discuss public input provided at the public meeting held on October 7th. The mobility study working group is looking for photos of Pine Grove Mills. If anyone has any, please send them to ptomkiel@twp.ferguson.pa.us

Economic Development: Mr. Heller heard back from Ms. Leann Jeffries (Downtown Improvement District (DID)) on what they do and what the Committee could utilize in Pine Grove Mills, as well as Spud Marshall of 3 Dots. Mr. Heller is working on building an active business list for Pine Grove Mills.

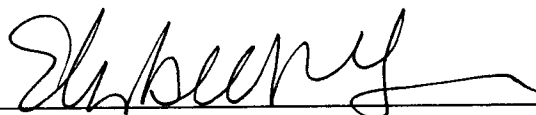
VII. OPEN DISCUSSION—None

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Wargo provided an update to the Committee on a potential future meeting with Brad Groznik of Groznik PR on a campaign for the Centre Region called 'Rediscover State College'. The goal of this campaign is to promote the region to people considering moving back to State College for a higher quality of life.

IX. ADJOURNMENTS

Motion to adjourn at 6:02 p.m.



Liz Grove, Secretary
Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Advisory Board