



TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

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www.twp.ferguson.pa.us

**Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Agenda
Ferguson Township Conference Room 2
Thursday, February 20, 2020
4:00 p.m.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CITIZEN'S INPUT
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- IV. RECEIVED RESIGNATION EMAIL FROM CHAIRWOMAN, NIKI TOURSHER

Narrative

The Township received an email from Ms. Toursher to inform she is no longer able to serve on the Committee. The Committee will need to elect a new Chairperson and be mindful that per Chapter 16 of the Code of Ordinances, Part IV, Boards and Commissions, Section 447 – Creation and Membership, the Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Supervisors for a quorum.

The Committee should elect a chairperson.

- 1. Election of Chairperson

- V. UPDATE ON THE CENTRE REGION COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN REPORT

Narrative

The attached final draft of the Centre Region Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan report is complete and was presented to Council of Governments (COG) General Forum at its January 27, 2020 meeting. The General Forum accepted the report and referred it to its member municipalities for their review and comments. Municipal comments are due back to the COG by March 17, 2020, and will be incorporated into the report as Appendix C. The final draft of this report is scheduled to be approved by adoption of resolution at the March 23, 2020 General Forum meeting. Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors discussed the report at their February 18, 2020 meeting and will discuss again at their March 2, 2020 meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee **discuss** the report and offer comment to staff by February 28, 2020 for the Board of Supervisors to review for consideration.

- VI. UPDATE ON THE LOW-/NO-MOW AREA AT CECIL IRVIN PARK

Narrative

The Committee heard comments from Ms. Ruth Cooper and Mr. Brian Rogers at previous meeting regarding the undeveloped area at Cecil Irvin Park and discussed this item to determine what, if any,

changes should be made to the maintenance of the undeveloped areas of the park. Staff sent a postcard to residents living on Sunday Drive with property that adjoins the Park property to invite them to provide input via an online questionnaire. Staff will collect and compile responses to share with the Committee for a discussion at the next meeting. A copy of the postcard is attached and the online questionnaire may be reviewed by visiting <https://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/ferguson-township-parks/webforms/cecil-irvin-park-questionnaire>.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee *receive* the update on the low-/no-mow area at Cecil Irvin Park.

VII. INTRODUCTION TO iNATURALIST

Narrative

iNaturalist is a smart-device app that can record and share natural history observations. It is used by amateurs and professionals alike to keep and share records of what plants and animals they saw, where and when they saw them, and an image of what they saw. Mr. Muth and his student are in attendance to present on how this tool could be used to in our park for a discussion.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee *receive* the presentation on iNaturalist.

VIII. COMMUNIATIONS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

IX. FUTURE REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

X. REPORTS

1. Staff Report
2. Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority Report – Mr. Bill Keough

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

I. ATTENDANCE

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its first meeting of the year on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at the Ferguson Township building. In attendance were:

Committee:

Niki Tourscher, Chairperson-Absent
Tessa Antolick- Vice Chair
Shawna Doerksen-Secretary
Connie Puckett-Absent
Norris Muth
Robert Demayo

Staff:

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

Others in attendance were: Summer Krape, Recording Secretary; Lisa Strickland, Ferguson Township Board Member and Resident; Laura Dininni, Ferguson Township Board Member and Resident.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Shawna Doerksen called the Thursday, January 16, 2020 Park and Recreation meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

V. INTRODUCTION OF TESSA ANTOLICK AND ROBERT DEMAYO

Mrs. Tessa Antolick and Mr. Robert Demayo introduced themselves to the Committee and the Committee introduced themselves to the new members.

VI. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

1. Election of Chairperson

Mr. David Pribulka opened up nominations for Chairperson, Mr. Norris Muth nominated Ms. Niki Tourscher, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Election of Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Pribulka opened up nominations for Vice-Chair and Mrs. Tessa Antolick nominated herself, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Election of Secretary

Ms. Antolick then took over the meeting and opened up nominations for Secretary. Ms. Doersken nominated herself and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

Mr. Pribulka stated that in the packet there are proposed meeting dates. He noted that meeting day and time did change and the Committee will now meet on the third Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm. Mrs. Doerksen made a motion to approve the proposed meeting dates, Dr. Muth seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2020

Mrs. Antolick asked the Committee if there were any goals from 2019 that needed to be carried over into 2020. Mr. Pribulka went over things the Committee covered in 2019 such as Suburban Park and the mowing schedule of parks and undeveloped areas of parks. Mr. Pribulka stated that some big things the Board of Supervisors decided on for parkland development for 2020 include conducting a flood plain study in Suburban Park. Mr. Pribulka again stated that the Committee will provide additional input/recommendation on the mowing strategies for undeveloped parkland like the area in Cecil Irvin Park. Mr. Muth stated he would like to discuss the revegetation of storm water basins, he used Haymarket Park as an example. Mr. Pribulka explained that the goal is to get better infiltration there will be an infiltration mix planted, and possibly some small trees. Mr. Keough made a suggestion that the Committee members read the full comprehensive study on parks that the Park and Recreation Authority had done, since Ferguson Township has parks that contribute to this study he would like the members to read the study and discuss the issues as they impact the Township's parks. Mr. Pribulka stated that Ms. Centrice Martin will prepare a goal document and distribute to the Committee. Mrs. Antolick stated that as a small homework assignment for members is to think about possible goals the Committee would like to achieve this year.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTLY TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. Antolick asked how members can be contacted. Mr. Pribulka stated that the member's Township email is a good way. There also is a tab on the website someone can write in and it goes to Ms. Martin, Mr. Pribulka, and Ms. Tourscher.

X. FUTURE REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Keough asked that the Committee think about asking the BOS about finding a high school junior from the Township and have them serve 2 years to be able to discuss topics from their point of view. Mrs. Strickland stated that there are some students in the Delta Program and High School getting into civic involvement. Mr. Muth stated that he would like the Parks Committee to consider the use of i-naturalist app and use it in some educational outreach. Mr. Muth stated that it could be used by taking a picture of a bird in a park and putting it on the app. He explained that this is similar to "Pokémon Go". Mr. Keough wanted to bring it to the Committee's attention that the Millbrook Marsh has experienced weather related crisis' such as higher water/more water and board walk is now partially closed. Mr. Keough stated that all agencies are being pulled together to figure out remedies for this. Mr. Pribulka stated that Ferguson Township will be putting information on this out on social media.

XI. REPORTS

1. STAFF REPORT

No staff report. Mr. Pribulka stated that there are some materials in the packet for Committee members that include the bylaws and procedures.

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

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Doerksen made a motion to adjourn the Thursday, January 16, 2020 Parks and Recreation meeting at 5:30 pm. Mr. Muth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

SHAWNA DOERKSEN, SECRETARY
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE



Cecil Irvin Park Questionnaire

To help determine a future maintenance plan for Cecil Irvin Park, the Township is asking for input from neighborhood residents who live on Sunday Drive and adjoin the park property.

Please visit the Township's website to complete the online questionnaire at <http://ow.ly/MzpX50yIDEd> or use the QR code.



Deadline to respond is end of business day on March 5.

Residents without access to the online questionnaire are encouraged to contact Centrice Martin at 814-238-4651.

Phone: 814-238-4651

Fax: 814-238-3454

www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/ferguson-township-parks/webforms/cecil-irvin-park-questionnaire



Township of
FERGUSON
Pennsylvania

Ferguson Township
3147 Research Drive
State College, PA 16801



Bryan and Pamela Rodgers
101 Sunday Drive
State College, PA 16801



Township of

FERGUSON

Pennsylvania



**Staff Report
February 20, 2020**

1. Staff is in the process of applying to Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for the Park Rehabilitation and Development grant for funding to construct Phase A1 of Suburban Park Master Plan Update. Eligible projects shall range from 200,000 to \$500,000 with a dollar for dollar match. Mr. Pribulka and Ms. Martin met with Mr. Wes Fahringer, DCNR Regional Advisor, to discuss the grant application and visit the site.
2. Assistant Township Engineer engaged Newell, Tereska & Mackay (NTM) Engineering firm to perform a hydraulics and hydrology analysis to design the floodway channel and submit to acquire federal and state permits required before construction can start.
3. Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR) and Township staff met to discuss the playground inspections report and the course of action to be performed in response to the observations noted in the attached report.
4. Staff received the attached email from residents living on Owens Drive inquiring about the recent addition between their property and Songbird Sanctuary property.
5. Staff recently installed the split rail fencing at Songbird Sanctuary. The Township recently install split rail fencing to mark the property boundaries after having it surveyed. Installing fencing on park property lines and corners is a common practice by the Township. Fence is installed at each corner, and along any property line (somewhere in the middle) if the split rail fencing is not easily seen when standing at the other corner. The reason for installing the fence is to have property lines marked to allow Township and Centre Region Parks and Recreation staff to accurately assess and identify park boundaries when on-site to address or respond to matters ranging from park management to park maintenance.
6. The Public Works Director drafted the attached Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) policy for mowing parks that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and direction. The final SOP will define low-/no mow park maintenance practices and serve as a guidance to apply when determining a maintenance plan for all parkland in the Township.
7. Staff installed the drinking fountain at Greenbriar Park.

- Parks Committee
- Baseball back/look
Hawthorn -
- maintenance 6/11



December 12, 2019

Mr. Jeffery Ressler, CPSI
Ferguson Township Zoning Administrator
3147 Research Drive
State College, PA.16801

Jeff,

I am writing regarding the recent playground inspections that you conducted earlier this year. I have reviewed the reports that you have sent to Centre Region Parks and Recreation and submit to you the course of action that has been or will be performed. I will again ask that before you conduct your next annual inspection would you consider allowing me to go along so that we can have an open dialogue and discuss what is being found in the field and where improvements can be made. This approach would better reflect our actual working relationship with respect to capital improvements and maintenance services.

Autumnwood Park, Inspected September 27, 2019

General-

- 1) Appropriate warning labels in accordance with ASTM Standards need to be replaced on the 3-D climber, composite structure and to-fro swings.
- 2) Surfacing materials need to be replenished around composite structure, climbing wall and to-fro swings.

Action taken by CRPR. All labels were updated with the new requirements that include Warning of drawstrings on clothing. All areas received additional engineered safety mulch to meet standards.

Cecil Irvin Park, Inspected July 16, 2019

Large Composite Structure

- 1) Protective surfacing measured 9 inches in several places.
- 2) Warning labels provided on structure. The warning labels do not contain all the information as listed ASTM 1487-17-14.2

To-Fro Swings.

- 1) Surfacing measures 10 inches in several locations
- 2) Warning labels are installed on the support posts. The warning labels do not contain all the information as listed in ASTM 1487-17-2 for signs and labels.

Small Composite Structure

- 1) Surfacing measures 9 inches in several locations.
- 2) Decorative piece is broken, can produce sharp edges and is an entanglement hazard.

3) Warning labels are installed on the structure. The labels do not contain all the information as listed in ASTM 1487-17-2.

T-Swings.

- 1) Surfacing measures 10 inches in several locations.
- 2) Warning Labels on structure. The labels do not contain all the information listed in ASTM 1487-17-2.

Spring Rockers.

- 1) The surfacing material measured 9 inches in several locations.

Action taken by CRPR- Levels of protective surfaces noted and acceptable, some materials were added throughout the season. All warning labels were updated to the new standards that included the drawstring warning label. Broken decorative piece was removed and will be replaced upon delivery.

Fairbrook Park. Inspected on July 10, 2019

Small Tube Slide.

- 1) Surfacing measured 5-6 inches in several locations and needs to be replaced in high use areas. Grass and weeds in the use zone.
- 2) Warning label installed on structure. The warning label does not contain all the information listed in the ASTM 1487-17-14 standard for warning labels or signs.

Small Composite Structure.

- 1) Protective surfacing measured between 9 and 12 inches in several locations.
- 2) Warning labels attached to the structure. The warning label does not contain all the information listed in the ASTM 1487-17-14 standards for warning labels or signs.
- 3) Potential protrusion hazard at the top of swings.
- 4) Potential entanglement hazard with the top of the slide and the edges of the support posts.

To-Fro Swings

- 1) Grass and weeds in use zone. Protective surfacing needs to be replenished around the high use areas.
- 2) Surfacing measured 12 inches in several locations.
- 3) Warning labels on support posts for 5-12 years of age and 2-5 years of age. With adult supervision recommended. The labels do not contain all the information listed in the ASTM 1487-17-14 standard for warning labels and signs.

Large Slide

- 1) Grass and weeds in use areas.
- 2) Surfacing measured 9 and 12 inches.

Action Taken by CRPR- Protective surfacing noted and replenishment in areas was completed throughout the season. All labels were updated to include the drawstring warnings. **Small composite structure is recommended to be replaced due to safety concerns that are placing the structure out of compliance. The unit is older and parts maybe difficult to get.**

Greenbriar/Saybrook. Inspected July 15, 2019

Composite Structure.

- 1) The opening from the platform to the overhead climber (to) is greater than 15 inches.
- 2) Surfacing measured between 9-12 inches in the use zone.
- 3) Warning labels on structure lists the appropriate age of users and adult supervision is recommended. The warning label does not list all the items in ASTM-17,14.

Action taken by CRPR- Platform item is being discussed with the manufacture to see what if anything needs to be done to make it compliant. Surfacing is noted. Warning labels were updated with new labels that include drawstring warning.

Haymarket Park. Inspected September 27, 2019

Composite Structure.

1)Protective surface needs to be replenished in the use areas around the structure.

Swing Set.

1)Protective surfacing needs to be replenished under the swings where it has been displaced.

2)Warning signs or labels in accordance with ASTM standards need to be posted.

T Swing.

1)Warning signs or labels in accordance with ASTM standards need to be posted.

2)Surfacing measured 7 inches in several locations. Surfacing should be replenished.

Action taken by CRPR- Protective surface material was added as needed throughout the season. All warning labels were updated with the new drawstring warnings.

Homestaed Park. Inspected July 15, 2019

Small Composite Structure.

1)Protective surfacing measured 9-12 inches around the play structure.

2) Slide is cracking.

3)Warning label provided on structure. Warning label does not contain all the information as listed in ASTM 1487-17.14

To Fro Swings.

1)Grass and weeds in use zone. Protective surfacing needs to be replenished around the high use areas. Surfacing measured between 9-12 inches.

2)Chain links at the top of the swings are showing wear.

3)Warning label in disrepair. Warning label or signage should contain all the information as listed in ASTM 1487-17.14.

Action taken by CRPR- Protective surfacing was replenished as needed throughout the season. Slide with cracks are being researched for replacement costs and availability. Grass and weeds were removed throughout the season. Chain links on the swings are being monitored and will be replaced as needed. The warning labels were replaced and updated with new drawstring warnings added.

Meadows Park. Inspected July 10, 2019

Composite Structure.

1)Playground surfacing measured between 9 and 12 inches in the use zones of the composite structure, tire swing and to-fro swings. Grass and weeds are growing in the use zones. The grass and weeds should be removed.

2)Warning labels have been applied to the composite structure, tire swing and to-fro swings. The warning labels do not contain all the information listed in the ASTM 1487-17.14 standard. For warning labels or signage.

3)Tree limbs are extending over the use zone of the To-Fro Swings.

Action taken by CRPR- Protective surfacing material was added as need throughout the season. Grass and weeds were removed throughout the season. Warning labels have been updated to include the new warning for drawstrings. Tree limbs were removed from safety zones.

Park Hills Park. Inspected July 16, 2019

To-Fro Swings.

1)Protective surfacing measured 9 inches in several locations. The surfacing needs to be replenished under and around swings. A minimum of 12 inches of approved material should be provided.

2) Warning labels are installed on the swing posts. The warning labels do not contain all information listed in ASTM 1487-14.2 for warning signs and labels.

Small Composite Structure.

1) Protective surfacing measured 6 inches in several locations. The surfacing needs to be replenished in the use areas around the composite structure. A minimum of 9 inches of surfacing material should be maintained.

2) Warning label placed on structure. The warning label does not contain all the information listed in ASTM.

Climbing Equipment

1) Surfacing measured between 7-9 inches in several locations. Surfacing material needs to be replenished in the use zones. A minimum of 9 inches needs to be maintained.

2) Warning label installed on play structure. The warning label does not contain all the information listed in ASTM 1487-17.14.2

Action taken by CRPR- Protective surfacing was replenished as needed through out the season. Warning labels were updated to include information about the drawstring warnings.

Suburban Park. Inspected September 27, 2019

General Comments

1) Surfacing material needs to be replenished around composite structure swings and slides as depicted in photos 1 thru 4. A minimum of 9 to 12 inches of approved surfacing material should be provided

2) Warning signs and or labels in compliance with ASTM Standards should be installed.

Small To-Fro Swings.

3) The use zone around the swings does not extend two times the distance from the pivot point to the top of the protective surfacing.

4) Chain links are showing wear.

5) Rocks are piled up in the use zone of the swings

6) Surfacing measured between 6 and 8 inches.

Small Bulldozer Play Structure

7) Appropriate warning labels needs to be affixed to structure.

8) Surfacing measured 9 inches in several locations.

Composite Structure.

9) Surfacing measured between 9 and 12 inches in several locations.

Action taken by CRPR. Protective surfacing was replenished throughout the season as needed. Warning labels were updated to include the new drawstring warning. Chain links on swings will be monitored and replaced as needed. Rocks and debris will be removed. The use zone for the To-Fro swings will be checked and extended as needed.

Tudek Park (Main play Area). Inspected September 27, 2019

General Comments

1) Surfacing material needs to be replenished around play structures and swings as depicted in photos. The minimum depth of surfacing should be at least 9 inches.

2) Warning signs and labels in accordance with ASTM standards should be posted or applied to the structures.

Large Composite Structure.

3) On the spiral slide entrance platform, there are two areas that are cracked, possibly from a bolt head.

4) Surfacing measured between 9 and 12 inches in depth.

Small Composite Structure.

1) Surfacing measured between 9 and 12 inches in depth.

To-Fro Swings

- 1) Swing seat is cracking.
- 2) Surfacing measured between 9 and 12 inches.

Action taken by CRPR. Protective surfacing was replenished throughout the season as needed. All warning labels were updated to include the new drawstring warning. The spiral slide is being researched for cost and replacement to make it compliant. Swing seat was replaced.

Tudek Park (playground near tennis courts) Inspected September 27, 2019

General comments.

- 1) Surfacing material needs to be replenished around play structure in high use areas.
- 2) Warning signs or label should be replaced in accordance with ASTM Standards.

Action taken by CRPR. Surfacing material was replenished as needed throughout the season. All warning labels were updated to include the new drawstring warnings.

If you would like to set up a meeting to discuss any of these issues, please let me know.

Thank you.

Jim Carpenter, CPRP, CPSI
Park Manager Centre Region Parks & Recreation
2929 Stewart Dr. #303
State College PA 16801

Cc, Dave Pribulka, Manager Ferguson Township
Pam Salokangas, CRPR Parks Director

[Ferguson Township PA] Songbird sanctuary (Sent by Karen Mitchell, karmit@gmail.com)

Contact form at Ferguson Township PA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Fri 1/24/2020 6:34 AM

To: Martin, Centrice <cmartin@twp.ferguson.pa.us>

 1 attachments (1 MB)

img_0294.jpg.jpg;

Hello cmartin,

Karen Mitchell (karmit@gmail.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/user/28/contact>) at Ferguson Township PA.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/user/28/edit>.

Message:

My name is Karen Mitchell and we live at 149 OWENS Dr., right next to the Songbird sanctuary. It has been a largely positive change to the area, and we certainly appreciate the attention to maintaining our local wildlife. The park is home to foxes and many species of bird, including some resident ravens.

I am writing today to inquire about a recent addition to the property line between us and the park. Attached you will find a picture of a split rail fence that was installed yesterday. If the intent was to have us stop mowing the strip of lawn over the property line, we can do that. If the intent is to continue the fence, I think that would be a nice addition. But as it is, it looks a bit odd.

Our intent was to attend occasional Parks and Rec meetings, but 4 pm is still during our work day, so it's a bit difficult. I have been keeping up with the meeting minutes, and I didn't see a mention of the fencing. We will try to attend the next meeting to discuss this in person, and better understand the intent.

Thank you for your attention.

Karen and Ray

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MOWING IN PARKS

February 2019

Introduction:

Mowing of developed and active areas in parks is completed by the Centre Region Park and Recreation Department (CRPR) of the Centre Region Council of Governments. Mowing of undeveloped park areas is accomplished by the Ferguson Township Public Works Department (FTPW). This standard operating policy applies to Ferguson Township Public Works Department mowing of undeveloped park areas or certain pollinator gardens and stormwater basins in previously developed park areas as further defined below.

Mowing frequency:

Pollinator gardens shall be mowed once per year after first frost in the fall or winter.

Stormwater basin mowing shall depend on the plantings. Basins planted with tall grass shall be mowed a total of once or twice per year and mowing shall occur before April 1 or after August 31. Grass shall be mowed no lower than 8 inches.

Low mow areas in developed park areas shall be mowed at the same frequency as stormwater basins with tall grass.

Undeveloped park areas shall either be leased and used as farm pasture or mowed at the same frequency as low mow areas in developed parks at 8 inches.

– roadside mowing consider type L low mow mix, 3 mowings west end, May, July, September – sight distance weed whip or mow more frequently – high banks or areas outside clear zone mow as tall grass or pollinator based on plantings

Mowing locations and responsible party:

Cecil Irvin Park pollinator garden in developed area by CRPR.
Cecil Irvin Park stormwater basin by CRPR

Fairbrook low mow in developed area by CRPR