



## TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

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### Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Agenda

<https://zoom.us/j/99561466949?pwd=NGtySXNhdlM3a0YrbHFEOU1PVFFRUT09>

Thursday, April 16, 2020

4:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CITIZEN'S INPUT
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- IV. CECIL IRVIN PARK QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

#### Narrative

Eleven residents that live on Sunday Drive with property that abuts up against the undeveloped area in Cecil Irvin Park received a postcard invitation to respond to the online Cecil Irvin Park Questionnaire. Ten residents responded to the questionnaire. Responses are attached for review.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee **discuss** the questionnaire results to offer staff a recommendation.

#### V. DRAFTED STANDARD OPERATING POLICY (SOP)

#### Narrative

The Township Public Works Director, Dave Modricker, is drafting a Standard Operating Policy (SOP) for mowing parks. Attached to this agenda is a draft SOP for the Committee to review and comment on. The SOP, if adopted, would serve as a guidance to apply to all parkland in the Township.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee **review** the drafted SOP maintenance plan for Township parks.

#### VI. REPORTS

1. Staff Report – nothing to report.
2. Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority Report – Mr. Bill Keough

#### VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**I. ATTENDANCE**

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 20 2020, at the Ferguson Township building. In attendance were:

**Committee:**

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

**Staff:**

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

Others in attendance were: Summer Krape, Recording Secretary; Camryn Bookhamer, Penn State Student; Jonathan Montresor, Penn State Student; Hannah, Juniata College Student; Jerry Learn, Ferguson Township Resident/Possible new member.

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Tessa Antolick called the Thursday, February 20, 2020 Park and Recreation meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

**III. CITIZEN'S INPUT**

Two Penn State University students are present to do research for a project on local government.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Antolick called for a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes. Dr. Shawna Doersken made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Norris Muth seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**V. RECEIVED RESIGNATION EMAIL FROM CHAIRWOMAN, NIKI TOURSHER**

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. Mr. David Pribulka stated that he and Ms. Centrice Martin will be looking for another member of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Mr. Bill Keough stated that he had suggested at the last meeting the possibility of bringing on a youth member for a year/two year appointment. Mr. Pribulka stated that he will need to look into this more thoroughly to see if it's a possibility. Mrs. Antolick opened up elections for Chairperson. Mr. Muth nominated himself for Chairperson, the motion passed unanimously.

**VI. UPDATE ON THE CENTRE REGION COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN REPORT**

Mr. Muth stated that the Parks Committee will need to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Martin stated that the deadline has been extended and this will be on the BOS agenda for Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Pribulka stated that the Board is interested in what the expectation of the municipalities & involvement of the municipalities and Board; it will be the municipalities' responsibility to fix park equipment or the regional parks authority. Mr. Muth stated that if the Committee has any comments they will need to be sent to Ms. Martin by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pribulka stated that Ferguson Township & this Committee will be heavily involved with the Township's Recreation, Parks and Open Space plan which is a more localized strategic plan. Mr. Pribulka stated that staff will be working on the request for proposals in the coming months.

**VII. UPDATE ON THE LOW-/MOW AREA AT CECIL IRVIN PARK**

Mr. Muth stated that at a previous meeting the Committee heard comments from residents Ms. Ruth Cooper and Mr. Brian Rodgers regarding the low/no mow area at Cecil Irvin Park. The Township sent the residents of Sunday Drive a postcard to do an online survey for this area. Ms. Martin gave new members some history on the approved no mow/grow zone area, the benefits, and the history of the issue at Cecil Irvin's undesignated grow zone. Mrs. Antolick asked the Committee if these residents are concerned about invasive species in that area. Mr. Muth stated that the residents have multiple issues with the area such as uneducated on the species that are located in the no mow area, safety concerns, and just unpleased with how unattractive it is. Mr. Pribulka stated that the Township used to mow it every two weeks, and starting two years ago the Township started the twice a year mowing schedule. Mr. Pribulka stated that he would like to get a structural instructions for mowing in this area. Are we going to continue the no mow area, should we plan a more purposeful mix. Ms. Martin showed the Committee the post card that was sent to the residents to engage in the discussion of the low mow area.

**VIII. INRODUCTION TO iNATURALIST**

Mr. Muth stated that he has brought Hannah a student from Juniata College to go over iNaturalist with the Committee. Hannah stated that she would like ideas from the Committee so they can create a park section of the app. She explained that there are different approaches to get people to go to parks and use iNaturalist. She stated that there could be different age groups and topics for certain items. Mr. Muth stated that he would like feedback from the Committee on what they would like to see. Mr. Keough stated that he would like to see one of the Township's parks become famous for this instead of all parks having this and it not being used. Mr. Muth stated that that is good feedback and starting with one park would be a great start. The Committee discussed possible pairings with schools/activities. Mr. Jerry Learn member of the audience suggested presenting this to the home school community as they do not have as many restrictions. Mr. Muth asked the Committee to think about why we are trying to input iNaturalist in the upcoming months. Mr. Demayo stated that over the Summer when he doesn't have anything to do with his kids he thinks it would be a good idea to pick a park and open a scavenger hunt in that park and do that for each park instead of focusing on just one park. Ms. Martin suggested partnering with Centre Region Parks and Recreation, they host multiple summer camp activities, she suggested getting in contact with Pam Salokanagas at Centre Region Parks and Recreation. Ms. Martin also stated that the Township would be willing to put any type of flyer on the website.

**IX. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**X. FUTURE REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

**XI. REPORTS**

**1. STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Martin stated she can answer any questions regarding the staff report.

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

Mr. Keough stated that he attended the Ferguson Township Tree Commission and was listening to the discussion on outreach and education and he stated that he thinks it would be a good idea for the Parks Committee and Tree Commission to work together and do something for educational purposes and utilize the parks. He's asking the Committee to allow Ms. Martin to start discussion with the Tree Commission regarding a partnership. Mr. Keough

stated that there has been discussion for an action sports park in the region and it has been decided that that park will be High Point Park.

**XII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Ms. Martin that for new members this Committee does a parks tour and this year's plan is to do the tour in June.

Mr. Jerry Learn state that he attended the recent Coffee and Conversation where he spoke with Ms. Martin regarding the opening with the Parks Committee. Mr. Learn introduced himself to the Committee and the Committee introduced themselves to him.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Doerksen made a motion to adjourn the Thursday, February 20, 2020 Parks and Recreation meeting at 6:00 pm. Mrs. Antolick seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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SHAWNA DOERKSEN, SECRETARY  
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Ferguson Township | Administration  
Cecil Irvin Questionnaire Responses

1. Name Lance Cooper – 03/01/2020 – 1:47pm  
Address 161 Sunday Dr.  
Preferred Option Mow and Maintain the Undeveloped Area in the Same Manner as the Developed Area  
Fill in if you selected #3
2. Name Bryan Rodgers – 02/29/2020 – 8:58pm  
Address 101 Sunday Drive  
Preferred Option Mow and Maintain the Undeveloped Area in the Same Manner as the Developed Area  
Fill in if you selected #3
3. Pam Rodgers – 02/29/2020 – 8:56pm  
Address 101 Sunday Dr, State College, PA 16801  
Preferred Option Mow and Maintain the Undeveloped Area in the Same Manner as the Developed Area  
Fill in if you selected #3
4. Andrew Klaus – 02/27/2020 – 8:04pm  
Address 141 Sunday Dr  
Preferred Option Mow and Maintain the Undeveloped Area in the Same Manner as the Developed Area  
Fill in if you selected #3
5. Kelly Loviscky – 02/22/2020 – 7:18pm  
Address 121 Sunday Drive  
Preferred Option Mow and Maintain the Undeveloped Area in the Same Manner as the Developed Area  
Fill in if you selected #3
6. Doug Loviscky – 02/22/2020 – 7:17pm  
Address 121 Sunday Drive  
Preferred Option Mow and Maintain the Undeveloped Area in the Same Manner as the Developed Area  
Fill in if you selected #3
7. Kelly Loviscky – 02/22/2020 – 7:18pm  
Address 121 Sunday Drive  
Preferred Option Mow and Maintain the Undeveloped Area in the Same Manner as the Developed Area  
Fill in if you selected #3
8. Name Andrew Klaus – 02/27/2020 – 8:04pm  
Address 141 Sunday Dr  
Preferred Option Mow and Maintain the Undeveloped Area in the Same Manner as the Developed Area  
Fill in if you selected #3
9. Pam Rodgers – 02/29/2020 8:56pm  
Address 101 Sunday Dr, State College, PA 16801  
Preferred Option Mow and Maintain the Undeveloped Area in the Same Manner as the Developed Area  
Fill in if you selected # 3

# 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