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# TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

3147 Research Drive • State College, Pennsylvania 16801  
Telephone: 814-238-4651 • Fax: 814-238-3454  
[www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)

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**Parks and Recreation Committee  
Meeting Agenda  
Ferguson Township Conference Room 2  
Monday, April 8, 2019  
4:00 p.m.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- III. CITIZEN'S INPUT
- IV. COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE CENTRE REGION COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

#### **Narrative**

Jim Steff emailed the regional municipal managers, on behalf of the Steering Committee for the Parks and Recreation Regional Comprehensive plan, asking for each municipal Parks and Recreation Committee to answer three questions. Attached to this Agenda is a copy of the questionnaire form. This questionnaire initiative is separate from the online survey, the randomized survey that was mailed to residents, the key stakeholder interviews, and the public forum that was held at the State College High School. These outreach initiatives aim to collect information to help identify the public's expectations for park and recreation programs and facilities in the future.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee *discuss* and *complete* the questionnaire for Jim Steff to forward onto the Parks and Recreation Regional Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

- V. DISCUSSION ON THE COMMUNICATION MATERIALS AND PLAN FOR GROW ZONES AT FAIRBROOK PARK

#### **Narrative**

On March 18, at the Regular Meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved the Low-Mow/Native Landscape Garden Map for Fairbrook Park. The Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department met with Township staff to discuss implementation plans. As part of this discussion, staff defined low-mow as being a designated area that will be mowed two times a year. Staff will remove existing brush and get a quote for the cost of purchasing plant seed mix and plant in Spring 2020. Staff and CRPR agreed CRPR will mow around the Grow Zone area, and for staff to collaborate with Mr. Jon Kauffman on signage. Centrice Martin, Assistant to the Manager, worked with Mr. Kauffman to prepare signage for at the park and a flyer to promote and distribute around the community to help raise awareness and education on Grow Zones. Ms. Martin is suggesting the Parks Committee discuss and offer support for the proposed communication plan. Attached to this Agenda is a proposed Communication Plan for the Committee to review, discuss and offer comments on the Communication Plan.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee *discuss* for an opportunity to provide comments on the communication plan for Fairbrook Park.

**VI. WHITEHALL ROAD REGIONAL PARK PRE-APPLICATION JOINT MEETING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Narrative**

In accordance with the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Section 22.302, Stahl Sheaffer Engineering requested a Pre-Application Conference with the Township Planning Commission. Attached to this Agenda is a copy of the Ordinance. The Pre-Application Conference is scheduled for Monday, April 22. This conference meeting presents an opportunity for the Parks Committee to meet jointly with the Planning Commission for the Pre-Application Conference meeting.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee *discuss* and confirm member attendance at the Pre-Application Conference.

**VII. REPORTS**

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

**VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, March 11, 2019  
4:00 P.M.**

**I. ATTENDANCE**

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting of the month on Monday, March 11, 2019, at Ferguson Township in Conference Room 1. In attendance were:

**Committee:**

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

**Staff:**

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

Others in attendance were: Laura Dininni, resident

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Tourscher called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019 MEETING**

A motion was made by Ms. Myer and seconded by Ms. Vondracek to approve the February 11, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion carried 4-0.

**IV. CITIZEN'S INPUT**

**V. INTRODUCTION OF MR. BILL KEOUGH, THE CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION (CRPR) AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS**

**VI. CONTINUED – REVIEW OF THE FAIRBROOK 'NO MOW' MAP**

Ms. Martin presented two maps prepared by the Township's GIS technician for the Committee to review and select which map to forward to Board of Supervisors as a recommendation. The Committee reviewed one map that reflected changes discussed by Committee members in last meeting. The Committee also reviewed a second map that reflected changes by Committee members in last meeting, and suggestions made by the Township Arborist. As seen on the second map, the Township Arborist, Lance King, suggested expanding the native landscape along Tadpole Road to include the bank and the area closer to the cul-de-sac on the Northwest of the property could have more of a pollinator mix. Mr. Pribulka also mentioned that the Lance King indicated that the drive lane to the upper parking lot and the shared use-path will need regular maintenance to ensure a clear zone path is mowed on each side of the path.

A motion was made by Ms. Vondracek and seconded by Mr. Muth to refer the second Fairbrook Park low-/no-mow map to the Board of Supervisors as a recommendation for approval. The motion carried 6-0.

**VII. SONGBIRD SANCTUARY MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Pribulka introduced the Songbird Sanctuary Master Plan item. He reviewed the history of the acquisition of the park, as well as the plan for master planning in-house. Mr. Pribulka suggested that the Committee could either complete the master plan by itself or appoint a small subcommittee of Parks Committee members to serve on a master planning group. The Committee was in favor bringing together

a subcommittee. The Committee discussed other groups that would be involved in the master plan process which included the State College Bird Club; Penn State Master Gardeners; Nittany Mountain Bike Association; and the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department.

The Committee discussed how best to proceed with the maintenance of the park once it is planned and developed. Mr. Keough suggested that the committee determine whether the goal is to turn the park over to CRPR once it is built and work forward from there. Mr. Pribulka suggested that turning the park over to CRPR would be the appropriate way to proceed at the time, and the Authority would be petitioned to take over the park.

A motion was made by Ms. Tourscher, seconded by Ms. Doerksen, to appoint Mr. Muth, Ms. Vondracek, and Mr. McKinnon. The motion carried 6-0.

## VIII. REPORTS

- 1. Staff Report:** Mr. Pribulka provided his staff report which included an update to the Suburban Park Master Plan; BOS appointing Mr. Keough to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority; concept plan for Haymarket; and the pollinator plots at Songbird Sanctuary.
- 2. Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority:** Mr. Pribulka did not attend the CRPRA meeting but he did share that the Authority was preparing to submit a land development plan for Whitehall Road Regional Park. Mr. Pribulka also shared that Pine Hall was being discussed in terms of potential recreational amenities the development may provide.

## IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

On behalf of the Steering Committee for the Parks and Recreation Regional Comprehensive Plan, Jim Steff provided a 3 questionnaire survey be completed by each municipalities Parks and Recreation Committees to help identify the public's expectations for future parks and recreation programs and facilities. The Committee is in favor of providing this information to the Steering Committee, however, members asked if Mr. Steff expects individual survey response or one survey response to reflect the committee's collective thoughts. Mr. Pribulka will clarify with Mr. Steff and forward an update to the committee members.

## X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the Parks and Recreation Committee adjourned at 5:12 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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KATHIE VONDRACEK, SECRETARY  
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Centre Region Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Question 1: What is missing from the mix of recreation opportunities in the Centre Region?

Question 2: What 3 things would most improve parks, trails, recreation facilities and/or programs in the Centre Region?

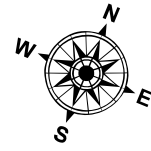
Question 3: What do you see as the most significant issue(s) facing the provision of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs in the Centre Region?

Thank you for your feedback!







## Communication Plan to Raise Awareness and Provide Education on Grow Zone Area at Fairbrook Park

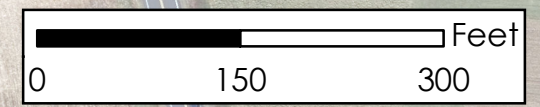
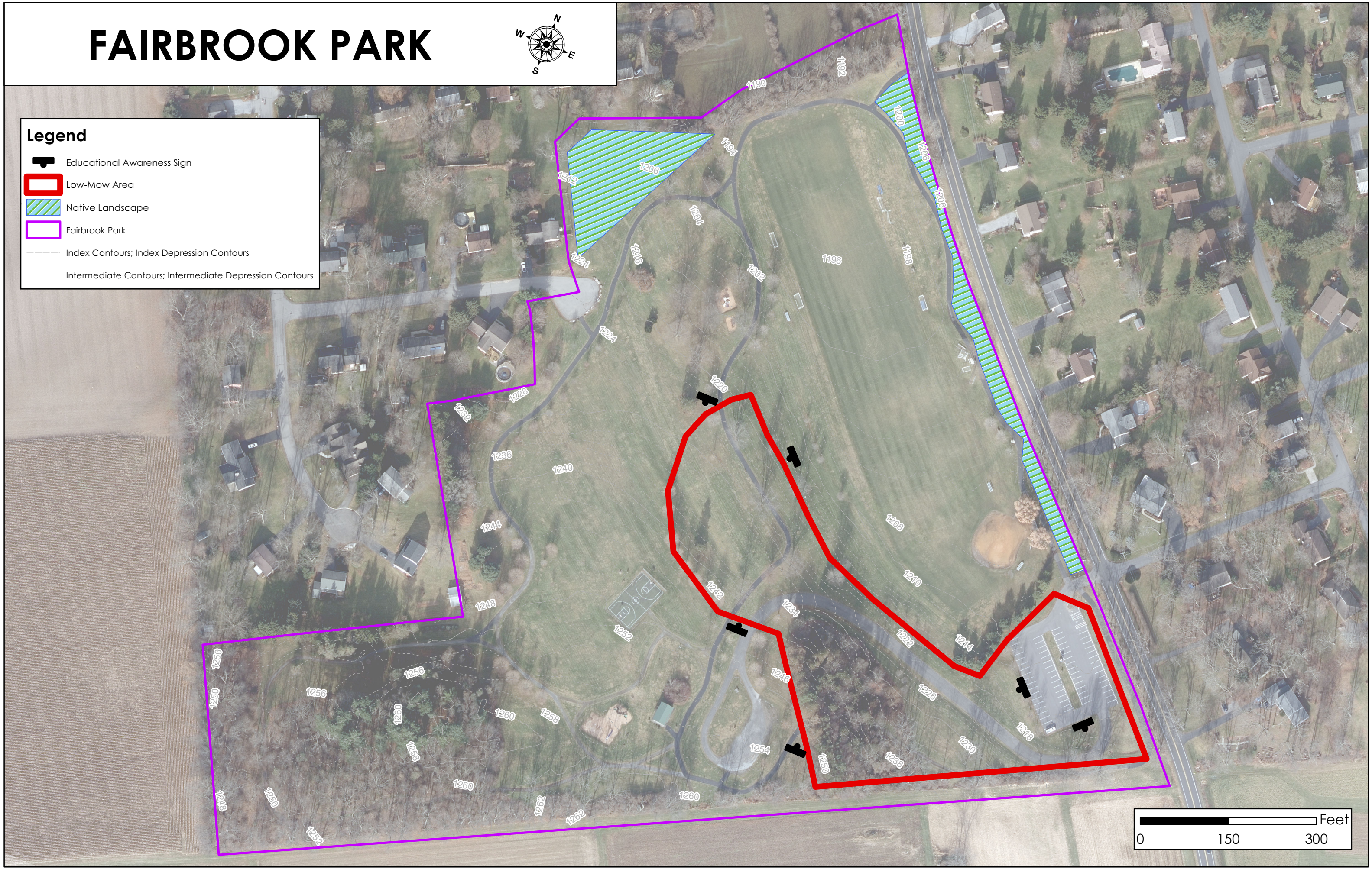
1. Install 6 informative signs at the Park.
2. Promote Grow Zone flyer via social media and on website.
3. Create a Grow Zone webpage for residents to visit and learn more about Grow Zones.
4. Feature Fairbrook Park Grow Zone area in Township's E-newsletter.
5. Feature (and conduct) an interview with Township Arborist (and/or possibly a Parks and Recreation Committee) with a focus on designated Grow Zones and Native Landscape areas.
6. Offer an online 3-5 question survey asking for public opinion on Grow Zone areas to help inform future decisions.

# FAIRBROOK PARK



## Legend

-  Educational Awareness Sign
-  Low-Mow Area
-  Native Landscape
-  Fairbrook Park
-  Index Contours; Index Depression Contours
-  Intermediate Contours; Intermediate Depression Contours



# Grow Zone

are no-mow or low-mow areas designated to help Centre County maintain biodiversity in the environment and reduce carbon footprint



Visit Ferguson Township at  
[www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us)  
for more information  
about Grow Zones.

Local parks play an important role in maintaining a high quality of life for community members and the biotic community of the natural world. Maintaining a healthy relationship between these communities exhibits good stewardship that can benefit future generations.

Fairbook Park will play an important role in demonstrating good stewardship opportunities that can be applied to other parks as well as private landowners.

## Ecological Benefits

- Grow Zones allow surrounding landscapes to achieve a higher diversity of plant material that host a diversity of insects.
- Higher diversity of insects provide high amounts of protein and energy for songbirds such as the Eastern Bluebird to feed their growing young during the nesting season.
- Grow Zones allow a soft edge next to wooded areas that increase opportunities for songbirds, owls, and many other wildlife species to find food and nesting opportunities.

## Educational Benefits

- Grow Zones provide an example that can educate and empower community members to act in their home to promote soft edges in the landscape.
- A diverse landscape can provide an outdoor classroom with Citizen Science opportunities that encourages science learning.

## Water Quality Benefits

- High abundance of herbaceous plants such as Common Milkweed, Black-eyed Susan, and grasses help keep rainwater in the nearby soil and prevents soil erosion.

## Cost Savings Benefit

- Fuel cost reductions
- Labor cost reductions



# Grow Zone



## Why is grass taller here?

**Increases diversity and maintains a balance throughout the biotic community**

**Improves and collects stormwater runoff**

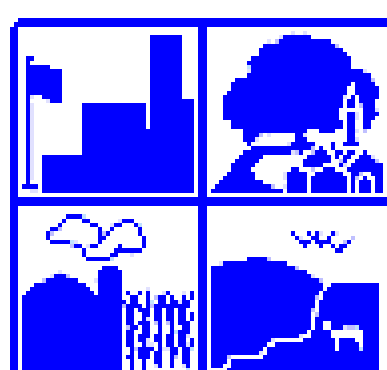
**Promotes sustainable landscape**

**Encourages observation and learning environment**

**Reduces costs and environmental impacts**

**Grow Zones** bring many benefits and also encourage park visitors to beware of ticks and mosquitos. Visit the websites for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency to learn how to prevent tick and mosquito bites.

Visit Ferguson Township at [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us) for more information about Grow Zones.



### Part 3

## Plan Review Procedures

#### §22-301. General.

Tentative subdivision and land development plans shall be reviewed by the Township Planning Commission and the Centre County Planning Commission, or its designated agent, and shall be approved or not approved by the Board of Supervisors in accordance with the procedures specified in this Chapter. Plans may be presented in two stages, preliminary and final, or simultaneously as a preliminary/final plan. If a plan is presented in one stage as a preliminary/final plan then the plan must meet both the preliminary plan requirements and final plan requirements as if the plan were presented in two stages.

(Ord. 374, 1/10/1989; as amended by Ord. 402, 9/12/1989, §3)

#### §22-302. Preapplication Conference.

1. A potential applicant for subdivision or land development, all or part of which is situate in the Township, may request a conference with the Planning Commission for the purpose of discussing or reviewing such proposed subdivision or land development.

2. The preapplication conference is strongly urged but shall not be mandatory and shall not be regarded as formal application for subdivision or land development. The filing of any report, sketch plan, plat, or map prior to or at such conference shall not constitute submission of a plan or application for land development or subdivision.

3. Any report, sketch plan, plat, or map to be considered by the Planning Commission at such conference shall be provided by the potential applicant in ten copies and the Township Department of Planning and Zoning shall distribute a copy of the same to the Township Planning Commission and the Centre Regional Planning Commission for informational purposes only. [Ord. 820]

4. The Planning Commission may, at its sole discretion, make, or refuse to make, recommendations as the result of the pre-application conference. Any recommendations made by the Planning Commission at or in response to the pre-application conference shall not be binding upon the Planning Commission in its review of the plan after formal application.

(Ord. 374, 1/10/1989; as amended by Ord. 820, 12/8/2003)

#### §22-303. Review of the Preliminary Plan.

All applications for approval of subdivision and land development plans shall commence with the official submission of a plan and all required supplementary data to the Township Department of Planning and Zoning. All applications for preliminary review of a plan shall be acted upon by the Township within such time limits as established in this Chapter, provided that the Board of Supervisors shall render its



**Staff Report  
April 8, 2019**

1. YSM held the Suburban Park Master Plan Update public meeting at 6pm on Wednesday, March 27, at the Quality Inn Conference Room. Ms. Yost with YSM reviewed the proposed phasing schedule at the meeting. The PowerPoint presentation is available on the Township's website. YSM is tentatively scheduled to present the final presentation of the final master plan update to the Board of Supervisors at Monday, May 6, at the BOS regular meeting.
2. The Ad Hoc Committee for the Songbird Sanctuary Park Master Plan is scheduled to meet from 1-2:30p.m. on Monday, April 8, in Conference Room 2 for an initial conversation and then a field visit to the park.
3. Staff and Ms. Trish Meek, Senior Planner with Centre Regional Planning Agency, had a meeting on Wednesday, March 27, to discuss the Bike Path Feasibility Study. As a result of this meeting, Centrice Martin, Assistant to the Manager, will engage with The Sustainability Institute for an opportunity to collaborate in the fall and work with Ms. Meek to begin discussing the work plans for moving this project forward.
4. As a directive from the Board of Supervisors, staff will be purchasing and installing two bike repair stations in the Township. Staff reached out to the Centre Region Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Centre Bike Group for recommended locations. As recommended and supported by staff, one bike repair station will be placed at the Tudek Park/Circleville Road/and Science Park Intersection and the other station will be placed at Tudek Park.