

TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

3147 Research Drive • State College, Pennsylvania 16801
Telephone: 814-238-4651 • Fax: 814-954-7642
www.twp.ferguson.pa.us

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 8, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84430721446>

Meeting ID: 837 2598 6340

[Zoom Access Instructions](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. CITIZEN'S INPUT

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. CONTINUED DISCUSSION TO THE RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN EXERCISES

Narrative

HRG provided the Parks Committee and the Board of Supervisors with a series of exercises defining the Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan update. This agenda item focuses on topics not addressed in the Parks and BOS joint worksession. Attached in the agenda packet are materials relating to these exercises. This month's exercises establish the goals and objectives of the RPOS Plan.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. INTRODUCTION OF DOUG MILLER TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Narrative

Doug Miller was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Committee by the Board of Supervisors at the September 6 regular meeting. Mr. Miller is Research Professor Emeritus for Landscape Science and Informatics and Pennsylvania State University. He earned a bachelor's degree in earth science, master's degree in agronomy, and a Ph.D. in soil science from PSU, where he also founded the Center for Environmental Informatics in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks and Recreation Committee welcome Doug Miller to the committee.

VI. REPORTS

1. Staff 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, August 11 2022
4:00 P.M.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its Park Tour on Thursday, August 11, 2022, in attendance were:

Committee:

Tessa Antolick-Chairperson
Dr. Shawna Doerksen- Vice Chairperson
Rick Tetzlaff-Absent
Norris Muth
Bill Keough-Absent
Rob DeMayo

Staff:

Centrice Martin, Manager
Summer Brown, Recording Secretary
Jaymes Progar – Assistant Township Manager

Others in attendance: Tom Gabrielson, Ferguson Township Resident; Laura Dininni, Ferguson Township Resident.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Tessa Antolick called the Thursday, August 11, 2022 Park and Recreation Parks tour to order at 4:03 pm.

III. CITIZEN'S INPUT

Mr. Tom Gabrielson a Ferguson Township resident is present to inquire about the event that was held at Saybrook Greenbriar park. Ms. Tracy Strickland HRG representative stated that she could get Mr. Gabrielson a copy of the short survey that was sent out. Ms. Strickland will be providing a brief update on the initial results on the survey.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Antolick called for a motion to approve the June 23, 2022 meeting minutes, Dr. Shawna Doerksen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. UPDATE ON THE UPDATE OT THE RPOS PLAN

Ms. Strickland is present to give a brief update on the Saybrook Greenbriar event. Ms. Strickland stated that although it was hot the event was very popular. Participates filled out a short survey and HRG received 17 surveys' back. The consensus is that most residents are in favor of leaving it as a nice quiet neighborhood park with quiet activities. Residents would like to see improvements made to the walking trails and possibly extending them, more accessible play equipment and a variety in age range of play equipment. There were also some comments in regards to the installation of a pet waste facility and cleaning up pavilion two.

Ms. Strickland stated that the Parks Committee did have a joint work session with the Board of Supervisors where HRG received amazing feedback. Ms. Strickland stated she would like to hold a couple stakeholder meeting as she is still trying to get in contact with a few community groups. Ms. Strickland and the Committee discussed reissuing the large community survey that was sent out to residents at the beginning of the year. The Committee discussed and decided they would like the survey to be sent out again.

2. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON RPOS PLAN UPDATE EXERCISES

Ms. Strickland went through the mission statement exercise with the Committee. The Committee reviewed the exercise and had a brief discussion on the exercise. Mr. Rob Demayo stated that there are great natural resources in the Centre region and he would like to see the mission statement reflect that in some way. Our parks encourage residents to get out to not just the parks but the amenities outside the park. The Committee will review further and discuss at the September meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ON AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Dr. Doerksen nominated Mr. Demayo as Committee Secretary, Dr. Norris Muth seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. DISCUSSION ON COMMITTEE VACANCY

Mr. Jaymes Progar wanted to bring awareness to the Committee of this vacancy.

VII. REPORTS

1. STAFF REPORT

2. CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY REPORT

3.

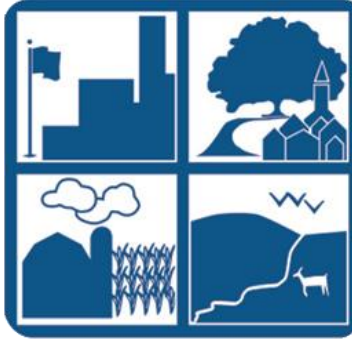
VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Antolick entertained a motion to adjourn the Thursday, August 11, 2022 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting at 6:00 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ROB DEMAYO, SECRETARY
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE



STAFF REPORT

August 11, 2022

1. Staff received an application from Doug Miller to join the Parks and Recreation Committee. The application was included in the Board of Supervisors September 6 Regular Meeting Agenda.
2. Staff received a report from a resident with maintenance concerns at Fairbrook Park. Items included gravel paths, culvert cleaning, branch and brush maintenance, water fountains, porta-john cleaning, and playground mulching. Staff forwarded items to Centre Region Parks and Recreation that fall under the CRPR maintenance responsibilities. Staff reviewed gravel paths, culvert cleaning and water fountains. Staff performed a site visit and is evaluating a work plan and is in ongoing discussions with Rock Springs Water Company regarding the restoration of service to the water fountains.
3. Staff received a report from a resident regarding bollard sleeves in park paths at Autumnwood Park. Staff is working to resolve the issue.
4. Staff continues to receive updates regarding the Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan update from HRG. HRG will be present at the October Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting to provide updates and facilitate exercise discussions.

EXERCISE #2 – PROS PLAN GOALS

STEP ONE:

Please read the **2009 RPOS Plan Update Goals** below and **select which goals still apply** to the 2022 RPOS Plan Update.

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP 2009 RPOS PLAN UPDATE - GOALS

The Township's first RPOS Plan was adopted by the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors in 1998. The Plan identified the importance of providing updates on a regular basis and to that end, the Plan was updated in 2009. In the 2009 Plan Update, the RPOS Planning Committee established the following goals to serve as guidelines for the Plan Update:

- **Goal #1:** Develop a strategy that allows the Township to provide recreation, park, and open space facilities to current and future populations.
- **Goal #2:** Evaluate how the services at the local level are impacted by the recently obtained regional park opportunities.
- **Goal #3:** Provide safe and convenient access to park / open space for all residents of the Township
- **Goal #4:** Provide a range of park, recreation, and open space opportunities which support both active and passive recreation needs and serve all ages and abilities.
- **Goal #5:** Ensure public awareness and involvement in the planning process Plan.

STEP TWO:

To develop a more comprehensive list of Plan Goals, please review the examples of Goals from peer RPOS Plans and **select the Top 3 Goals from each example** that you like the most.

BUTLER AREA RPOS PLAN - GOALS

1. Develop a comprehensive network of safe bicycle and pedestrian access routes in the greater Butler area.
2. Develop a unified and cohesive method to publicize existing recreation facilities, recreation programs and general recreational opportunities in the greater Butler area.
3. Develop partnerships among municipalities, local organizations, and recreation providers to foster a culture of open communication and collaboration.
4. Maintain all municipal recreation facilities to the highest level of acceptable standards to ensure clean, safe, and aesthetically pleasing facilities.
5. Develop a plan to ensure the long-term financial sustainability for the operation, maintenance and development of parks, recreational facilities, and programs.

6. Preserve open space areas that contain features of natural and/or cultural significance.
7. Develop and maintain clean, safe, and well-appointed facilities that meet the needs of all users in the community.
8. Maintain the staff necessary to support the development, implementation and maintenance of all facilities and programs.
9. Build a culture of sustainability within the parks and recreation organization to promote green building practices and the use of alternative methods for park development and maintenance.
10. Develop a well-rounded offering of programs for all age and user groups within the community.

WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP RPOS PLAN - GOALS

1. Moving forward with a strategy that recognizes parks, recreation, open space, and trails as part of the Township’s overall infrastructure serving environmental, economic, health, and social needs is essential.
2. Enhancing the quality of life and the Township’s resiliency and sustainability through parks and recreation in accordance with Best Management Practices and the expressed opinion of the public is the foundation of this plan.
3. The Plan Update’s implementation will protect our natural resources and open space
4. It will shape the beauty and character of our landscape
5. It will expand access for all
6. It will improve health
7. It will increase revenues
8. It will mitigate the effects of severe weather and climate change
9. It will help build a strong sense of community
10. It will provide opportunities for our residents to create memories that will last a lifetime

JACKSON TOWNSHIP RPOS PLAN - GOALS

1. Initiate cooperative efforts between Jackson Township, Zelenople and Harmony
2. Boroughs to efficiently provide the best quality recreation for all residents of the region
3. Prepare for the development of Jackson Township’s first recreation facilities
4. Sustain the quality of existing recreation resources, and plan for increased level of use
5. Plan local and regional trail networks
6. Preserve open space
7. Prepare to fund new recreation infrastructure
8. Develop local partnerships to provide robust recreation facilities and programs

LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP RPOS PLAN - GOALS

Programming:

1. Maintain support of MARA1 to continue long range planning and management of programs and services.
2. Establish performance measures and policies to facilitate effective park programming.
3. Expand, update, and formalize partnership agreements.
4. Recognize the value and importance of partnerships and volunteers that donate each year.

Facilities:

- 5. Realign the Neighborhood Parks to be the primary interface with citizens and a priority component of the park system.
- 6. Maintain and establish regional sports complexes to serve club sport’s needs.
- 7. Update recreation ordinance requirements to bridge the gap between project population and municipally owned facilities.
- 8. Establish additional signature parks that create a sense of community pride and livability.

Connectivity:

- 9. Prioritize connections within existing park facilities to enhance users to access amenities.
- 10. Prioritize gaps in sidewalks that connect neighborhoods to parks in various areas of the Township.
- 11. Work to enhance the Swatara Creek Water Trail Access.

Administration and Implementation:

- 12. Assign staff and funding necessary to implement key elements of the Plan.
- 13. Annually review the recreation maintenance budgets to assure there is adequate funding to maintain and repair existing amenities.
- 14. Establish and update all recreation policies and procedures.
- 15. Develop a communication and marketing plan to promote recreation services, facilities, and parks to enhance for Community use.

STEP 3 - RESULTS:

Please list your selections for 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice from each example below.

** In the case of Ferguson Township, you may elect to choose all the previous Goals from the 2009 RPOS Plan to continue to include in the 2022 Plan Update.

RPOS Plan Goals			
	1 ST CHOICE	2 ND CHOICE	3 RD CHOICE
FERGUSON TWP 2009 PLAN **			
BUTLER AREA PLAN			
WHITPAIN TWP PLAN			
JACKSON TWP PLAN			
LOWER SWATARA TWP PLAN			