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# TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

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## FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

### Meeting Agenda

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

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 844 3072 1446

[Zoom Access Instructions](#)

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

#### II. CITIZEN'S INPUT

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### 1. UPDATE ON THE RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

###### **Narrative**

Ms. Tracy Strickland, with HRG, is here to present a status update on the Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan. The RPOS plan provides the Township with a 10-year outlook and vision of Township parks, recreational facilities, and open space.

#### I. NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. REVIEW OF FAIRBROOK PARK AND GREENBRIAR SAYBROOK PARK MASTER PLAN CONCEPT DESIGNS

###### **Narrative**

HRG was contracted by the Township to complete master plan updates for Fairbrook Park and Greenbriar Saybrook Park in 2022. Following public input at the Winter Market and Municipal Mixer, along with stakeholder input, HRG began work on master plan conceptual designs. Ms. Tracy Strickland of HRG is here to present the initial conceptual designs for the park master plans for review and comment by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

###### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Parks and Recreation Committee receive the master plan concepts.

##### 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING DATES

###### **Narrative**

The Committee should establish meeting dates for 2023. If there are no conflicts, it is recommended that the committee maintain the current schedule.

*Recommended Motion: Move that the Parks and Recreation Committee establish its monthly meeting schedule as the \_\_\_\_\_ of each month at \_\_\_\_ p.m. for 2023.*

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee establish a meeting schedule for the year.

**II. REPORTS**

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

**III. OPEN DISCUSSION**

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, October 13, 2022  
4:00 P.M.**

**I. ATTENDANCE**

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2022, in attendance were:

**Committee:**

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

**Staff:**

Jaymes Progar – Assistant Township Manager  
Summer Brown, Recording Secretary

Others in attendance: Tracy Strickland, HRG Representative.

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Tessa Antolick called the Thursday, October 13, 2022, Park and Recreation Parks tour to order at 4:06 pm.

**III. CITIZEN'S INPUT**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Dr. Shawna Doerksen called for a motion to approve the September 8, 2022 meeting minutes with one correction, the heading should state regular meeting not parks tour. Dr. Norris Muth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. UPDATE ON THE RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

HRG representative Tracy Strickland is present to give the Committee and update on the Recreation, Parks, and Open Space plan. Ms. Strickland stated that HRG is almost done summarizing all of the public input. Ms. Strickland was able to interview with the community soccer league and received great feedback from them. Dr. Muth noted that local bike groups maybe interested in providing feedback. Dr. Doerksen suggested the State College Lions Football league, and Mr. Rob DeMayo suggested local lacrosse clubs.

**2. CONTINUED DISCUSSION TO THE RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN EXCERISES**

Ms. Strickland reviewed the draft mission statement, and the Committee is pleased with the draft. Ms. Strickland reviewed the exercise answers the Committee provided at the September meeting and how she interpreted them. The Committee agreed with most but suggested some changes be made to the exercise question that involved CRPR and programming. Dr. Muth suggested being uniform across the entire plan update regarding terminology.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION ON A GRANT APPLICATION FOR PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES FALL SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT ROUND FOR CECIL IRVIN PARK PHASE 2.**

Mr. Jaymes Progar reviewed the DCNR grant staff is currently working on for Cecil Irvin Park Phase 2. Mr. Progar stated that in the agenda packet included drawings of the area included in this phase. Mr. Progar stated that DCNR has an intense check list of items to make a project eligible for the grant. Mr. Progar stated that he performed a site visit with DCNR to the park and he has been working on a narrative over the last. Mr. Progar reviewed the proposed amenities with the Committee.

**VII. REPORTS**

**1. STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Progar stated that the staff report is included in the agenda packet. Mr. Progar reviewed the report with the Committee.

**2. CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY REPORT- Bill Absent**

**VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Doerksen entertained a motion to adjourn the Thursday, October 13, 2022 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting at 6:00 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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ROB DEMAYO, SECRETARY  
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

# **ABC REPORT from BILL KEOUGH**

**10/26/2022**

Weather transitioning is the “operations plan of the day” for the agency’s maintenance staff. Winter program planning is looking to transition into indoor sites. That being said, we still have several outside activities underway with hiking/walking/jogging on our Ferguson Township park trails and fall sports still underway. Public water service to our parks is being shut down in anticipation of below freezing night time temperatures. This process has been delayed in comparison to other years to accommodate customers using the parks with the warm weather we have been experiencing.

## **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**A. JOHN HESS SOFTBALL COMPLEX**—The Park Authority has reviewed the two (2) options provided from the 2011 Master Planning process. At the request of the Authority, staff was charged with preparing a “white paper” regarding current needs and the options of three (3) vs (4) fields. After receipt of the white paper, the Authority engaged in discussion of the pros and cons of each option. The Authority has recommended the three (3) field option configuration to move through the COG committee process. In addition to the repositioning of the fields at Hess, the Master Plan calls for an ADA accessible playground area, redesigned parking area and a park “picnic grove” with a shelter. Finalization of the recommended Master Plan will work its way through COG committees to the COG General Forum.

## **B. REGIONAL GOVERNANCE DISCUSSION—**The COG

Select Committee assigned the Governance Revision Task remains focused on its mission but has modified its process by requesting the bringing on board of a non-staff, non-COG person in a FACILITATOR capacity to manage the process of consensus building. During the COG Budget review process the dollars for this person (I think \$ 5000) was cut from the CRPR Budget. However, in discussion with the Committee Chair, the use of a facilitator is still on the table with funding for the position coming from an alternate source. COG Executive Director Eric Nordberg has been tasked to move forward in securing a facilitator.

**C. POOL ACTIVITY—**Based on the summer season data (2022) it appears we have recovered to pre-covid use by our residents. In addition, due to favorable warm weather late into the fall, the Aquatics Director at the CRPR agency was able to offer some additional weekend pool time beyond normal fall closing.

**D. MILLBROOK MARSH—**The PHASE II building upgrades to the Marsh complex are on track and moving forward. Construction contracts have been offered and bids accepted. The MARSH BOARDWALK reconstruction is still in pre-construction study by a number of State Agencies and our local engineering team. The Park Agency maintenance department has been trying to keep up with small repairs on the “still open” portions. As the summer/fall season comes to a close, it appears an assessment of the open boardwalk sections has identified new areas that may have to close due to safety concerns and the conditions of the walkway. As of this report date, no decisions/recommendations about the new concerns have been made. In an effort to reduce the costs of the future Boardwalk project, the Authority is considering a DESIGN BUILD option for funding if grant related agencies will

allow this. Early estimates have suggested there may be a \$ 2-\$ 3 million dollar difference. That certainly has the Authority's attention.

**E. WHITEHALL ROAD REGIONAL PARK**—Over the last two months this project has had several fast moving parts affecting its completion. Weather (rain and wet grounds) has had some ongoing effects on the sequenced earth moving tasks. The Authority's on site project engineer has recently reported that about 75%-80% of the below ground and leveling work is now complete. This is the "heavy lifting" and "most costly" part of this project. But it has not been without some unanticipated and unfunded contingency dollar expenditure dollar increases in the operational earth moving project steps. Significant sub-surface rock was encountered and had to be excavated in order to install subsurface infrastructure (electricity, water, sewer). This created an over spending of the project's contingency funding. This has led the Authority to pursue two (2) actions:

1. Present a request to the General Forum for the release of a portion of the \$ 816,000 contingency which was part of the borrowing process but not initially assigned to the designated project funding. (REQUEST \$ 625,000)
2. Halt Authority approvals of change orders going forward until action on the \$ 625,000 request for release of contingency funds is acted upon by the General Forum requiring a unanimous vote.

The Authority's request to the General Forum from the \$816,000 contingency includes the following:

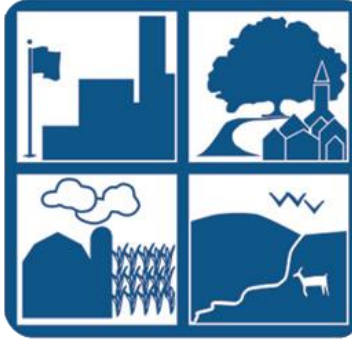
\$ 275,000 for project contingency spending

\$ 250,000 for an “on hold” grant match

\$ 100,000 for irrigation on fields #3 & #4

Work is continuing at the site at the moment. Because of the fall weather (rain & wet grounds) seeding at the main fields was not able to be accomplished. This has resulted in the park’s opening being pushed from the fall of 2023 to the spring/summer of 2024.





## **STAFF REPORT**

**December 8, 2022**

- 1.** Staff discussed High Line Skate Park in State College Borough with Gordon Kauffman III.
- 2.** Staff continues to discuss Fairbrook Park soccer goal placement for winter storage and low-mow zone mowing schedules with CRPR Staff.
- 3.** Staff continues to receive updates regarding the Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan update from HRG. Staff is currently reviewing draft chapters.
- 4.** Greenbriar-Saybrook Park has been surveyed and corners located. Pin placement should occur in early 2023.
- 5.** Staff submitted a grant application for Cecil Irvin Park Phase 2 to DCNR in late October. The grant is currently being reviewed by DCNR. Update on the status is expected in January 2023.