



# TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

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**Parks and Recreation Committee  
Meeting Agenda  
Ferguson Township Conference Room 2  
Monday, June 10, 2019  
4:00 p.m.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- III. CITIZEN'S INPUT
- IV. CENTRE COUNTY STORY WALK INTRODUCTION

#### **Narrative**

"StoryWalk" is a literacy and physical activity tool that engages community members in reading children's books in unique environments. It is a series of 2-page book signs featuring sequential spreads from a children's picture book. Those signs or pages are spread through indoor or outdoor spaces in all seasons, allowing a reader to follow along with a story by walking. Mr. Don Coine, Project Manager, has been encouraged to contact Centre Region Parks and Recreation to engage in their process for program approval. Attached to the agenda is an overview of the StoryWalk program provided by Mr. Don Coine.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee *receive* the information introducing Centre County Story Walk.

#### **V. 2020 – 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PARKS AND RECREATION)**

#### **Narrative**

Staff is preparing the DRAFT 2020 – 2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a rolling five-year guiding document the Township uses to plan for large expenditures, which are typically defined as items costing \$2,500 or more with a life expectancy of more than one year. Park improvements are included in this document, and the relevant Parks and Recreation section will be provided in draft form as an attachment in next month's agenda. Attached to this agenda is the current, 2019–2023, CIP for Parks and Recreation. The Committee is being asked to discuss and provide park improvement comments for staff to consider as the document is being prepared for review by the Supervisors during the CIP worksessions scheduled for July.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee *discuss* and provide comment on park improvements for staff's consideration as the 2020 – 2024 Capital Improvement Plan is being prepared.

#### **VI. UPDATE ON SONGBIRD SANCTUARY PARK MASTER PLAN**

#### **Narrative**

The Committee met Thursday, June 6, 2019 to continue the brainstorming session and sketched out a concept plan. Committee members identified only passive park features for the park. Staff will begin to prepare a draft narrative report from information discussed at meetings and follow up information that will be provided from Committee members within the next two weeks. The Committee will also be coordinating schedules to identify a date to host a public engagement event at the cul-de-sac on Owens Drive for nearby neighborhood residents to give feedback on the pre-final design.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee **accept** the update on the master planning process for Songbird Sanctuary Park.

**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, APRIL 08, 2019  
4:00 P.M.**

**I. ATTENDANCE**

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting of the month on Monday, April 08, 2019, at Ferguson Township in Conference Room 1. In attendance were:

**Committee:**

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

**Staff:**

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

Others in attendance were: Laura Dininni, resident

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. McKinnon called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Myer and seconded by Mr. Muth to approve the March 11, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. CITIZEN'S INPUT**

**V. COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE CENTRE REGION COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION, PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

Ms. Martin introduced the three questions that were included with the agenda. Feedback has been requested from the municipal parks and recreation committees. Notes from the discussion are below.

- Question 1: What is missing from the mix of recreation opportunities in the Centre Region?
  - Ms. Meyer suggested that winter recreational activities are lacking, especially things that are done indoors. Committee discussed the merits of having an indoor facilities where families can congregate. Ms. Dininni suggested it should be affordable.
  - Mr. Keough discussed the regional interest in action sports facilities in the Centre Region area.
  - Ms. Meyer suggested that there should be more opportunities for arts and performance, which may include adults as well as children. Mr. Keough suggested the region may benefit from a natural amphitheater.
- Question 2: What three things would most improve parks, trails, recreation facilities and/or programs in the Centre Region?

- Ms. Martin reviewed the previous discussion that took place that related to social activities and engagement.
  - Mr. McKinnon added that a focus and emphasis on species and natural conservation should be more prevalent in municipal parks. Mr. Muth concurred with Mr. McKinnon and added that programming related to natural features as well as tree and plant identifications would be beneficial to advance this goal.
  - Ms. Meyer suggested that wayfinding signage along shared use paths would be helpful.
  - Mr. Keough suggested that future phases of regional parks should be a short-term focus of CRPR. This should also be included as item #3.
- 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?
    - Mr. Keough's comment in question two relative to the prioritization and development of approved phases of regional parks.
    - Mr. Kinnon suggested further refining the definitions of parks. For example, are they autonomously owned and operated or is there a joint lease agreement with Penn State University?
    - Mr. Keough suggested that the region may want to investigate public/private partnership that may help to achieve the recreational goals of the region at an economy of scale that could not be achieved by the municipalities or CRPR, alone.

Ms. Vondracek made a motion to forward the comments to the COG Executive Director. Mr. Muth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion of Grow Zones at Fairbrook Park
  - Ms. Martin introduced the discussion. Reduce the number of signs in the parking lot to one and place it on a diagonal in the corner of the lot.
  - Generally, the committee was satisfied with the verbiage of the signage.
  - Ms. Dininni suggested increasing the size of the font so it is more visible.
  - Mr. Keough suggested changing the word "biotic" to "natural."

## **VI. DISCUSSION ON THE COMMUNICATION MATERIALS AND PLAN FOR GROW ZONES AT FAIRBROOK PARK**

Ms. Martin introduced the topic and informed the Committee that the Board of Supervisors approved the Low-Mow/Native Landscape Garden Map for Fairbrook Park. Ms. Martin also shared that through a collaborative effort, Public Works staff, CRPR staff, and residents in the community worked on identify location for signs, discuss maintenance for Grow Zone areas, and she presented the drafted signage for the Committee to offer feedback for changes. The Committee was generally satisfied with the verbiage of the signage with Mr. Keough suggestion to change the word "biotic" to "natural." The Committee requested that the number of signs in the parking lot be reduced to one. Ms. Dininni suggested to increase the font size so it is more visible.

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

Mr. Pribulka introduced the topic and shared that, in accordance with the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Stahl Sheaffer Engineering requested a Pre-Application Conference with the Township Planning Commission; and the Parks and Recreation Committee is also invited to attend given this is a Pre-Application Conference to review Whitehall Road Regional Park. The Committee agreed to attend the Pre-Application Conference Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission scheduled for Monday, April 22.

**VIII. REPORTS**

1. **Staff Report:**
2. **Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority:**

**IX. OPEN DISCUSSION**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further discussion, the Parks and Recreation Committee adjourned at 6:04 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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KATHIE VONDRACEK, SECRETARY  
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**  
*And*  
**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**JOINT WORK SESSION *And* REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019**  
**6:00 PM**

**I. ATTENDANCE - JOINT WORK SESSION**

**Commission:**

Lisa Strickland, Chair  
Bill Keough, Vice Chair  
Ralph Wheland  
Jeremie Thompson  
Jerry Binney  
Shannon Holliday, Alternate  
Erik Scott, absent  
Rob Crassweller, Secretary, absent

**Staff:**

Ray Stolinas, Director of Zoning & Planning  
Lindsay Schoch, Community Planner  
Jeff Ressler, Zoning Administrator  
David Pribulka, Township Manager  
Centrice Martin, Assistant to the Manager

**Parks & Rec:**

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

Others in attendance: Faith Norris, Recording Secretary; Robyn Froehlich (Stahl Sheaffer Engineering); Brian Auman (BSA/LA); Brian Heiser (SCBWA); Kathy Matason (CRPR Authority); Pam Salokangas (CRPR); Laura Dininni; Tom King and Laura King (King Wealth Strategies); Mark Torretti (Penn Terra Engineering); Matt Vidic (Centre Soccer); Summer Krape (Ferguson Township Administrative Assistant).

**II. (A) CALL TO ORDER – JOINT WORK SESSION WITH PLANNING COMMISSION AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Mses. Strickland and Tourscher called the joint work session to order at 6:07 p.m.

**III. CITIZENS INPUT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**IV. INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made of the Ferguson Township Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Committee and Township staff.

**V. WHITEHALL ROAD REGIONAL PARK (WRRP) PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE**

Mr. Stolinas introduced the WRRP pre-application conference. Stahl Sheaffer Engineering and Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority had requested the pre-application meeting. It was an opportune time to have a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Committee for public comment prior to the submission of a formal land development plan to gather recommendations from both bodies.

The pre-application is not considered a land development plan submission at this point. A review was done on WRRP's prior history as provided with the Project Narrative. The use was previously approved as a "Place of Assembly" under a Conditional Use. In 2013, a LDP was submitted, reviewed and Planning Commission recommended approval, but the Plan was officially withdrawn in 2017. The property of approximately 100 acres is jointly owned by Ferguson Township and Centre Region Council of Governments. Currently, the plan will require a new application review process for a future land development submission.

Ms. Froehlich and Mr. Auman reviewed the Preliminary Review phasing plan that illustrated map views that included first phase park amenities and landscaping along with pavilion and maintenance facility renderings. Following the presentations, questions were answered on various aspects of the pre-application process and the phases of the plan. Topics discussed included park amenities, site classification, buffers, drainage and native and future growth. Specific concerns discussed were types of pollinators; event use; turf and seating; potential for educational areas; lighting and setbacks; pavilion space; canopy structures and parking; restroom and ADA facilities; trails; impact on environment; mitigation and the potential for undeveloped areas. A concern was noted regarding an area school's access to a side road that is used heavily at times by through traffic; however, the road is not for that purpose and this may cause more traffic congestion for the area surrounding the school.

Mr. Auman discussed grant assistance programs that can help in funding efforts with the park's plan.

Ms. Salokangas responded to questions regarding the Master Plan review, phases of the plan, future connections/considerations and scheduled and unbudgeted costs. She noted there is support for solar installation and heating.

A discussion was held on off-site improvements for peak times. Mr. Pribulka noted that the Township's Right-of-Way has been secured for a new signal at Bristol Ave. and Blue Course Dr. is currently under the PA Department of Transportation permit process. Mr. Stolinas stated the typical process following a work session such as this one will be to follow-up with a letter to the applicant along with comments received this evening for consideration of a land development submission. Details followed on process and zoning in regards to "Place of Assembly".

A citizen inquired about the process of Phases 1 & 2 approval of plans that are not complete at this time and the fund raising efforts. Ms. Salokangas discussed the items in more detail with the group on determination of plan needs and long-range planning on costs.

A citizen representing Centre Soccer spoke on the need for use of the park for organized sporting events and noted other aspects along with a survey that was completed and shared with Centre Region COG.

## **VI. ADJOURN PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

The joint Pre-Application work session was adjourned by Ms. Strickland and Tourscher at 7:32 p.m.

A five-minute recess was called prior to the start of the Planning Commission Meeting.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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KATHIE VONDRACEK, SECRETARY  
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE



<b>Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan Update</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<p>The Township last completed a Recreation, Parks, and Open Space (RPOS) Plan in 2009. Since that time, there have been incremental developments in Township parks, and both active and passive recreation amenities have evolved to new standards. Prior to any further substantial parkland development projects, the Plan should be updated to reflect these trends and to ensure that the Township's investment in its parks is consistent with resident and community input. Prior iterations of the RPOS Plan have been done in-house. Given that there is a standing local parks committee, the staff is recommending engaging a consultant to assist in facilitating the RPOS Plan Update in order to produce a better outcome and engage a variety of stakeholders.</p>	
<b>Drinking Fountain Replacements</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<p>At the recommendation of the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department, the Township began upgrading drinking fountains in parks in 2016. This item includes the equipment and installation of one drinking fountain. If Public Works staff is available to install the fountain, two fountains can be replaced with this appropriation.</p>	
<b>Haymarket Park Pollinator Garden</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<p>Haymarket Park includes a sizeable stormwater detention basin that has generated complaints from residents about ponding water and is not a very attractive feature for a park. The Township is interested in planting approximately 4.1 acres of the basin with a native pollinator mix. Additionally, approximately .14 acres of the basin is proposed to be planted with a wetland pollinator mix, and additional plantings of native trees, shrubs, and viburnums can also be incorporated. In addition to improving the appearance of the basin and helping with infiltration, this project will also be a "test case" for future plantings in stormwater basins around the Township.</p>	
<b>2020</b>	
<b>Songbird Sanctuary – Passive Recreation</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<p>In 2016, the Township acquired 9 acres of property identified as Natural Area Conservation on the 2008 Ferguson Township Official Map. While no active recreational amenities are recommended on this site due to its unique infiltration properties, passive amenities such as hiking and biking trails are recommended to provide an enjoyable wooded area to recreate in an otherwise urbanized environment. It is anticipated that staff along with the Ferguson Township Parks and Recreation Committee will complete a Master Plan for the park in-house.</p>	
<b>Suburban Park Improvements</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
<p>The Suburban Park Master Plan will be updated in 2018/2019 to account for changing recreational needs in the area, as well as planned drainage improvements by the University Area Joint Authority. This development project could be supplemented by a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Precise amenities that will be developed as part of this project are uncertain at this time, pending completion of the updated Master Plan. The University Area Joint Authority is also a potential partner in this project, as they have expressed interest in the past in financing improvements to the drainage-way in exchange for nitrogen and phosphorous offsets.</p>	
<b>Tudek Farmhouse Roof Replacement</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
<p>The farmhouse needs a new roof. It is anticipated that this project will be funded by the Tudek Trust Fund.</p>	
<b>Playground Safety &amp; Update Program</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>
<p>To provide for equipment upgrades and replacements in order to meet playground safety standards.</p>	

<b>Drinking Fountain Replacements</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
At the recommendation of the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department, the Township began upgrading drinking fountains in parks in 2016. This item includes the equipment and installation of one drinking fountain. If Public Works staff is available to install the fountain, two fountains can be replaced with this appropriation.	
<b>2021</b>	
<b>Homestead Park Play Equipment</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
The Parks and Recreation Department is recommending updating and adding age-appropriate play equipment and installation by a certified installer.	
<b>Drinking Fountain Replacements</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
At the recommendation of the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department, the Township began upgrading drinking fountains in parks in 2016. This item includes the equipment and installation of one drinking fountain. If Public Works staff is available to install the fountain, two fountains can be replaced with this appropriation.	
<b>Haymarket Park Restroom Facilities</b>	<b>\$235,000</b>
The master plan for Haymarket Park includes construction of restroom facilities. This park is a highly-used, centralized park. Currently, the only township park where permanent restroom facilities are constructed is at Tom Tudek Memorial Park.	
<b>2022</b>	
<b>Fairbrook Park Master Plan Update</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
Fairbrook Park is a 23-acre public facility with playing fields, play areas, picnic facilities, perimeter walking path, hard court and parking facilities. The park offers an opportunity to convert some of the highly maintained turf areas to low maintenance as no-mow or pollinator areas. A revised master plan would evaluate the areas of the park for conversion as well as consider improving amenities.	
<b>Drinking Fountain Replacements</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
At the recommendation of the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department, the Township began upgrading drinking fountains in parks in 2016. This item includes the equipment and installation of one drinking fountain. If Public Works staff is available to install the fountain, two fountains can be replaced with this appropriation.	
<b>2023</b>	
<b>Tom Tudek Memorial Park Phase IIIA</b>	<b>\$355,000</b>
Completion of Tudek Park Phase 3a includes the construction of two basketball courts, completion of remaining sidewalk connections, paving the remainder of the parking lot, and associated landscaping and stormwater improvements. Phase IIIA is located on land owned by the Tom Tudek Memorial Trust and is adjacent to the park entrance on Herman Drive.	
<b>Drinking Fountain Replacements</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
At the recommendation of the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Department, the Township began upgrading drinking fountains in parks in 2016. This item includes the equipment and installation of one drinking fountain. If Public Works staff is available to install the fountain, two fountains can be replaced with this appropriation.	



**Staff Report  
June 10, 2019**

1. The Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2019-15 to approve the Suburban Park Master Plan Update. The Park Plan is available on the Township's website via [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/suburban-park-master-plan/](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/suburban-park-master-plan/).
2. The Ad Hoc Committee for the Songbird Sanctuary Park Master Plan held a meeting on Thursday, June 6, 2019. The Committee has developed a sketch plan for staff to prepare a scenario for a pre-final design.
3. The Township partnered with U.S Fish and Wildlife Services, Central PA Pheasants Forever, Habitat Forever, and the Foundation for Cal U to convert the stormwater facility to a pollinator friendly habitat at Haymarket Park. The current vegetation mix of traditional turf grass, thistle, and other unwanted species will be removed for the stormwater facility to be converted to a Grow Zone area.
4. Township staff and Ms. Trish Meek, Senior Planner with Centre Regional Planning Agency will meet with Ms. Ilona Ballreich with The Sustainability Institute at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2019, to discuss project scope of work, timeline, goals and intended outcomes.
5. As a directive from the Board of Supervisors, staff scheduled the installation for two bike repairs in the Township. Staff poured concrete pads and laid topsoil around pads and now waiting for concrete to cure. Bike repair stations will be installed next week. One bike repair station will be placed at Tudek Park/Circleville Road/and Science Park intersection and the other station will be placed at Tudek Park.
6. Grow Zone signs have been installed at Fairbrook Park.