

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018
4:00 P.M.

I. ATTENDANCE

The Parks and Recreation Committee held its regular meeting of the month on Monday, August 13, 2018, at Greenbriar/Saybrook Park in Ferguson Township. In attendance were:

Committee:

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

Staff:

Centrice Martin, Assistant to the Manager
Ray Stolinas, Planning & Zoning Director
Lindsay Schoch, Community Planner
David Modricker, Public Works Director

Others in attendance were: Faith Norris, Recording Secretary; Denise Meyer, Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority; Laura Dininni, Ferguson Township resident; Randy Hudson, Nittany Valley Environmental Coalition (NVEC); Brian Brushwood, Centre Warriors Lacross; Art Curtze, NVEC; Katherine Watt, NVEC; Dorothy Blair NVEC; Terri Melton, NVEC; Christine Bailey, NVEC; Nick Kellow, NVEC; Stan Smith, NVEC; David Roberts, NVEC; Wes Glebe, NVEC; Cynthia Nixon, NVEC; Tommy Blair, NVEC; and Mike Costello, NVEC

II. CALL TO ORDER

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2018 MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Doerksen and seconded by Ms. Puckett. The motion carried 5-0.

IV. CITIZENS INPUT

There was no citizens' input.

V. WHITEHALL ROAD REGIONAL PARK DISCUSSION IN REFERENCE TO RECENT LETTERS

This agenda item was requested by Mr. McKinnon at the July 9, 2018 meeting. On March 21, 2018, Mr. Pribulka mailed a letter to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority (CRPRA) to share comments made by the Board of Supervisors at its March 19, 2018 meeting. The Nittany Valley Environmental Coalition (NVEC) also followed up with a letter on July 8, 2018 to CRPRA regarding their interest and requests for the Whitehall Road Regional Park. In addition, Mr. Matt Vidic, Centre Soccer Association President, also sent a letter to CRPRA regarding interests and requests for the Park dated July 13, 2018. The aforementioned letters are a part of the agenda packet for this meeting.

Ms. Tourscher opened the floor up for public comments and asked that citizens limit their comments to five minutes each.

Many of the citizens in attendance voiced their concerns and suggestions for the Whitehall Road Regional Park which included discussions regarding the approved Phase 1 Master Plan, the demographics now versus when the plan was first submitted back in 2013, non-compliance with the Township Ordinance, the possibility of having an independent analysis, access to park amenities, passive parkland versus active parkland qualities in relation to diverse interest groups, pavilion features, expenses for amenities, active and passive stakeholders, less or no access to other facilities such as Penn State, and the next

steps for this Master Plan. Ms. Tourscher clarified the Ferguson Township Parks and Recreation Committee's role and recommendations for the process of the final approval of the Master Plan.

Mr. Hudson discussed the concerns listed in the letter from the letter he sent on behalf of the NVEC. He presented a visual chart of a Parks and Recreation survey of structured sports and park usage that dates back about 10 years ago. He continued on with an additional discussion regarding Phase 1 of the Whitehall Road Regional Park, the sports fields, the preservation of open and green space, and proportional spending.

The public comment period continued, however, due to the weather conditions and not being able to fully hear the discussion, the Parks and Recreation Committee opted to table the discussion until the next meeting on September 10, 2018. Following the decision to stay at the Greenbriar/Saybrook Park for the meeting, the Committee reconvened and continued onto the next agenda item.

VI. REVIEW AND DISCUSS SUBURBAN PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE PROPOSALS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATION

The Suburban Park Master Plan Update Request for Proposals was released Thursday, June 21. Centrice Martin, David Pribulka, David Modricker, and Ray Stolinas reviewed, scored, and ranked the five proposals. Each applicant was individually reviewed and staff found that three out of the five proposals did not meet the criteria as outlined in the rubric. Staff is asking the Parks and Recreation Committee members to review their rubrics, score the top two proposals, and provide staff with a recommendation for the Board of Supervisors to consider at the next regular meeting on Monday, August 20, 2018.

The Parks and Recreation Committee members individually discussed their options of both proposals from YSM Landscape Architects and Derck & Edson LLC.

A motion was made by Ms. Puckett, seconded by Mr. Muth to recommend that the Board of Supervisors award the Suburban Park Master Plan Update to YSM Landscape Architects. The motion carried 5-0.

VII. VOLUNTEERING AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

This agenda item was suggested by Ms. Tourscher to discuss with the Parks and Recreation Committee to determine if there is any interest, and if so, what types of community events members may be interested in volunteering at together as schedules permit.

Ms. Tourscher recommended sending a list of items and ideas for volunteering in the region. The Committee members discussed these items and felt that the Committee should let residents know that Ferguson Township is dedicated to and aware of the Township's goals regarding parks. It was noted that other municipalities have a counter part for Park Committees.

VIII. SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING LOCATIONS

The September 10, 2018 meeting will be held at the Tom Tudek Memorial Park, weather permitting. The October 8, 2018 meeting will be held at the Township building. It was suggested to confirm the meeting location based on expected weather conditions on the Friday prior to the meeting. The meeting location will be posted on the Township's website the Friday prior to the meeting.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

The table was opened up for open discussion of the members. Ms. Myer updated the committee on C-NET coverage of the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority meetings. She stated that the

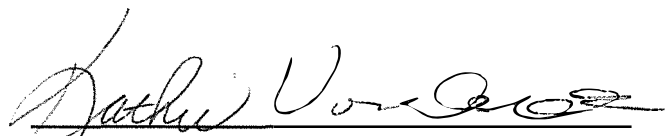
Authority received letters from other organizations that will be shared with Committee members. The decision to broadcast the Parks and Recreation Authority's meetings will need to be decided upon by each municipality's Board or Council due to the cost.

The issue of idling cars in parks was brought up. Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR) cannot enforce idling cars in the parks—only the park's municipality can enforce that. The next CRPR meeting will be this Thursday, August 16, 2018.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the Parks and Recreation Committee adjourned at 5:24 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathie Vondracek", written over a horizontal line.

KATHIE VONDRACEK, SECRETARY
FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE