

**MEETING LOCATION: HYBRID MEETING
 PATTON TOWNSHIP BOARD ROOM AND ZOOM**

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hickman called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Members present were Mr. Barry Bram (via zoom) and Mr. Rich Koch (via zoom). Ms. Ann Taylor and Mr. Greg Turner were absent. Ms. Cindy Solic, Patton Township representative to the Centre Region Parks&Rec Authority (CRPRA) was present (via zoom).

Staff members present were Ms. Susan Wheeler, Project Manager and Ms. Alexandra Castrechini, Director of Engineering, Zoning & Planning/Township Engineer. Ms. Chelsea Mali was present. Member of the public present (via zoom) was Mr. Jim Payne.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to accept the April Recreation Advisory Committee minutes was made by Mr. Bram and seconded by Mr. Koch. All members voted in favor of the adoption of the minutes.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE POSTED AGENDA

The Chair asked the Committee members if they wanted to add any agenda items that are not already on the agenda. No items were added to the agenda.

Any Committee member wishing to add an item to the agenda shall ask for recognition by the Chair and shall make a motion to add an item, including stating the nature of the item and reason for changing the agenda. If the motion is seconded, the Chair shall oversee discussion and a vote on the motion to add the item. If the motion is approved by a majority vote of the individuals present and voting, the item shall be added to the agenda. The Chair shall determine the placement of the added item within the meeting agenda.

4. GHANER DRIVE PARKLET ENCROACHMENT

Ms. Chelsea Mali addressed the Committee regarding the encroachment into the parkland behind her home. Ms. Mali said that she was unaware that she was encroaching into parkland and her installation was playground equipment that was benefitting all the neighbors.

Ms. Wheeler provided background to the Committee and reviewed the documents that were provided in the agenda packet. The Committee visited the site during their May parks tour.

In mid-April, the township received an anonymous letter concerning an encroachment into the Ghaner Drive Parklet which lies to the rear of the properties in the 200 block of Ghaner Drive. Township staff investigated and found that an adjacent homeowner, Ms. Mali, had placed a garden shed on the park property and created "home-made" recreational spaces for children. Staff informed Ms. Mali by letter, that all personal property must be removed from the public park property.

Ms. Mali asked to address the Board of Supervisors. A full chronology, as well as photos and other materials was provided to the Board of Supervisors at their May 25, 2022 meeting. Ms. Mali addressed the Board at that meeting. The Board asked the Committee to discuss the issue and make a recommendation to them for their July 20, 2022 Board meeting.

On May 28, 2022 a safety inspection was done by *Safe-4-Play* and a report was prepared. The report was provided to the Committee and to Ms. Mali. The report evaluated each item found encroaching into the parkland. Each installed item was found to be unsafe and the report recommendation was "immediate removal" of all items.

The Committee discussed preparing a survey for the surrounding neighborhoods that use Ghaner Drive parklet to assess if residents are interested in additional playground equipment in the park, and if so, of what type. Ms. Wheeler said that a survey packet could be developed and also made note that there is very little area left for playground development. Ms. Wheeler also commented that in the survey packet a map with information on the potential area for development must be provided so that survey respondents are aware of site limitations.

The Committee discussed the issue and asked staff to prepare the following recommendation to the Board for their review at the July 20, 2022 Board meeting. The Committee recommendation is as follows:

The RAC unanimously recommends that all items be removed from the Ghaner Drive Parklet encroachment located to the rear of 237 Ghaner Drive. This includes all items installed by Ms. Mali, that are recreational in nature and the shed. This removal should be completed by Ms. Mali within fourteen (14) days of the July 20, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting. The RAC further recommends that a neighborhood survey be done to determine if there is a desire to add amenities to the Ghaner Drive Parklet.

Ms. Wheeler told Ms. Mali that this recommendation would be given to the Board and they Board would decide on the next step.

5. SCOTIA ROAD SHARED USE PATH SCOPING STUDY/ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS UPDATE

Wilson Consulting Group (Wilson) was retained as the design professional for the Scotia Road Shared Use Path Alternatives Analysis Study.

The first public input meeting (the "Local Concerns") meeting was held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Since that meeting, Wilson has been collecting data and information and prepared three (3) alternatives for consideration.

The second public meeting was held on Thursday, June 16, 2022, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm and the three (3) alternatives were presented. The public comment period is to extend until June 24, 2022.

Staff updated the Committee on recent discussions with University Area Joint Authority (UAJA) whether a shared use path could be placed in the same alignment as a future sewer line in the Scotia Road area. This idea is not feasible due to the location and restraints in designated utility/stormwater easements.

The Committee discussed the comments from the public meeting and decided to discuss the project again at their July meeting, once all the public comments have been received. A recommendation will be made to the Board for their August meeting.

6. SPIN E-BIKE PROGRAM

In 2021, Penn State Transportation Services partnered with the Borough of State College and Spin, a San Francisco-based micro-mobility unit of Tier Mobility, to offer the Penn State and State College Borough communities a new bike-share program. Ms. Cecily Zhu, Penn State's Sustainable Transportation Program Manager has been the lead in this project.

Ms. Wheeler made preliminary enquiries with Ms. Zhu and Spin as to whether the e-bike network could be expanded into the Toftrees area of Patton Township along the Bellefonte Central Rail Trail (BCRT). This route and this expansion could provide a sustainable transportation alternative for area residents. Ms. Zhu indicated that the University would be happy to expand into this area if the details of the program can be worked out with Patton Township.

After reviewing the mapping, it was found that the shared use path traverses through a small portion of Ferguson Township to get from Sunset Park and onto the Patton Township section of the BCRT.

Staff has spoken with Ferguson Township staff and they are interested in pursuing a cooperative agreement with Spin so this expansion can be made.

Review of the micromobility agreement has been completed and the Committee should consider the following questions before making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

1. Who, at the Township, decides where the expansion can occur.
2. What is the process to review and approve expansions.

The Committee discussed the two questions and thought that the decision and review process should reside under the purview of the RAC and Ms. Wheeler. The Committee asked staff to ask Ferguson Township how they will be managing the review process. The item will be discussed again at the July meeting, and a recommendation will be made to the Board for their August meeting.

7. CENTRE COUNTY DISC GOLF ASSOCIATION (CCDGA) – CIRCLEVILLE AND BERNEL ROAD PARK DISC GOLF COURSES

At the May spring parks tour, the Committee visited the two (2) disc golf courses in Patton Township parks and also visited the disc golf course at Harvest Fields in Boalsburg.

Members of the CCDGA led the tour to point out and discuss their concerns about maintenance and the playability of the two course on Patton Township.

Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR) maintain both courses and over the years the fairways have been allowed to grow in which affects the ability to play many of the fairways.

The CCDGA suggested new mowing patterns and also suggested the re-routing of two (2) fairways to allow for better play. They will prepare some mapping for the Committee to consider. They also suggested mowing the "rough" between the fairways more often to keep down the tick populations. Some players have contracted Lyme disease from going in to the long rough to retrieve their discs.

The Committee discussed these issues and agree that more mowing of the rough is necessary. For this season, Patton Township will mow the rough every three (3) weeks at Circleville Park and assess how this is affecting play and request any mowing adjustments to

be made by CRPR beginning in 2023. Mowing changes at Bernel Road Park may/will occur after the CCDGA has provided input on modified mowing patterns.

8. GREEN HOLLOW PARK PHASE 2 ADA PATH CONSTRUCTION

Ms. Wheeler updated the Committee. The project is on schedule and completion is anticipated by July 8, 2022.

9. REGIONAL PARKS ISSUES UPDATE

Ms.Solic provided the following update:

- The fee policy for 2023 is being reviewed.
- They are exploring/considering a mobile concession being operated by CRPR in 2023.
- Works sessions will begin on the review of eh master plans for Hess Field and Oak Hall.
- CRPR is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SCASD for tennis courts.
- The Whitehall Road Regional Park and Millbrook March construction projects are moving forward.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. ADJOURN

Mr. Bram made a motion to adjourn at 6:15 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hickman. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 19, 2022, beginning at 5:30 pm.