

MEETING LOCATION: HYBRID
PATTON TOWNSHIP OFFICE AND ZOOM

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hickman (virtual) called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Members present were Mr. Rich Koch, Ms. Cindy Solic, and Mr. Jeff Zapletal. Mr. Greg Turner was absent. Staff members present were Ms. Susan Wheeler, Project Manager and Ms. Alexandra Castrechini, Director of Engineering, Planning & Zoning/Township Engineer.

Members of the public present were Mr. Jim Payne (virtual) and Kristy Owens, Director of Centre Region Parks and Rec (CRPR, virtual).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

3. ADDITIONS TO THE POSTED AGENDA

At this time, the Chair may announce and/or ask the Committee members for the addition of agenda items that are not already on the agenda. No new items were added.

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 and the Chair shall determine the placement of the added item within the meeting agenda.

4. GHANER DRIVE PARKLET SURVEY

In July and August of 2022, the Committee developed a survey to be distributed to the residents of the neighborhoods surrounding the Ghaner Drive Parklet. The survey was finalized, and the Committee asked that the survey be made available in the spring of 2023.

Postcard mailers were mailed to 278 addresses in the Ghaner Drive Parklet area with a link to an online survey. The survey postcards were mailed on March 31, 2023 and closed on April 28, 2023.

Ms. Wheeler provided a summary memo about the survey process and a summary of the survey data to the Committee. The data was summarized in graph form.

Ms. Wheeler summarized the data as follows:

- Demographics by age show the population of the Ghaner Drive Parklet neighborhoods are dominated by families with children aged 0-14 years representing 40% of the overall population.
- 76% of respondents use Ghaner Drive Parklet more than 2 times per week.
- 57% of respondents don't use Ghaner Drive Parklet due to lack of time. 43% do not like the existing facilities.
- The majority of respondents use Ghaner Drive Parklet for walking/exercise, playing in the grass field, walking dogs and open space enjoyment.
- The majority of respondents would like to have benches added to the park.

The Committee discussed the data and said they thought there was no clear direction to add any recreational amenities to the park. The park is used mostly for passive needs and the detention basin (which is mowed) is used a lot for informal play. Nothing can be built or permanently installed in that large grass area because it is a stormwater basin.

The Committee discussed that it has been their past practice to add or remove recreational amenities from parks only if it is demonstrated that 50% or more of the park users desire that change. The request for additional benches was made by 30% of respondents. The Committee discussed this and felt that adding benches would be suitable because the majority of park users are using the park for walking and open space enjoyment.

Mr. Koch made a motion to add four (4) benches to Ghaner Drive parklet and make no other changes to the park. Ms. Solic seconded the motion.

Ms. Wheeler added that one of the questions on the survey asked for comments on maintenance. Of the comments provided, Ms. Wheeler had the township road crew make the needed repairs. One larger repair that is needed is the replacement of the split rail fence, which was installed in 2005.

The Committee discussed modifying the motion to add the replacement of the existing split rail fence. Also, to add an additional section of fence on the steep slope behind the homes located at 229, 233, 237 and 241 Ghaner Drive. This part of the parkland is the steep slope area where there were encroachments into the park and that were removed in 2022.

All agreed to this unanimously and voted in favor of adding benches and replacing and adding new fencing.

This recommendation will be provided to the Board of Supervisors at their July 19, 2023 board meeting. After the Board meeting, and pending the action taken by the Board, the Committee asked that staff send mailers to residents of that neighborhood informing them of the survey outcomes and actions.

5. **BERNEL ROAD PARK PHASES 2A/2B CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Construction began on the Bernel Road Park Phases 2A/2B on June 5, 2023. Work is progressing as expected. Substantial completion is due by September 15, 2023 and final completion is due by October 15, 2023, weather permitting.

6. **SCOTIA ROAD SHARED USE PATH (SUP) CONNECTOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION**

Alrows LLC has been retained to provide right-of-way (ROW) acquisition services for the five (5) affected property owners for the Scotia Road SUP connector. The consulting firm has made initial contact with all five (5) affected property owners and some have asked for the area of easement and disturbance be marked in the field.

PennTerra has provided a quote for surveying services. It is anticipated that work will be completed by July 7, 2023. Ms. Wheeler will update the Committee on the progress of this project.

Once the survey is completed, Alrows will continue their discussions with the affected property owners. At that time, there will be a better understanding of resident concerns.

7. **TREEPENNSYLVANIA FALL TREE GRANT PROGRAM**

Preliminary grant applications are due by June 26, 2023. A grant application will be made for twenty (20) trees that will be planted in Bernel Road Parks Phases 2A/2B.

Ms. Wheeler is working with YSM Landscape Architects on a planting plan design to ensure the species and planting locations complement the new park construction. The bare root trees will be planted by the township road crew.

8. **BERNEL ROAD PARK DISC GOLF**

In 2022, the Committee met with representatives of the Centre County Disc Golf Association (CCDGA) to discuss maintenance and the condition of the disc golf fairways at Bernel Road Park.

Ms. Wheeler contracted a forestry mower firm to widen areas on certain fairways that had grown in with shrubberies and small trees. A plan to further refine these areas with grass seed for mowing is underway with Ms. Wheeler working with the township road crew who are performing this renovation work.

9. **CRICKLEWOOD DRIVE (TOFTREES) BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS**

An alternatives analysis for a bicycle/pedestrian facility along the entire length of Cricklewood Drive began earlier in 2023. In April of 2023, the Committee made a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for a preferred alternative.

“Alternative 4 – Road Diet with Shared Use Path” was recommended to the Board of Supervisors. This design includes a separated shared use path on one side of Cricklewood Drive and reducing the travel lanes of the roadway from 12 feet to 11 feet. The separated area between the roadway and the shared use path will be a grass strip.

The Board of Supervisors received a presentation from Karl Shellenberger of Buchar Horn at their April 26, 2023 meeting and the recommendation of the RAC was presented. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to accept “Alternative 4 – Road Diet with Shared Use Path” as the design recommendation for the Cricklewood Drive project.

Staff has asked Buchar Horn to provide a proposal to the township for full engineering design.

10. FAMILY STAR GAZING PERMITS

Ms. Amy Farkas, Township Manager has worked with Ms. Kristy Owens, the newly appointed Director of Centre Region Parks and Rec (CRPR) to allow family star gazing in Patton Township parks. An application must be made through CRPR to obtain the permit and there is no fee.

Mr. Jim Payne wanted to thank Ms. Farkas and Ms. Owens for implementing the family star gazing permits. Mr. Payne said that these individual permits were available years ago but in recent years CRPR was not granting these permits. He is very grateful to be able to stargaze again in Patton Township parks.

11. REGIONAL PARKS (CRPRA) UPDATE

Ms. Solic provided the following:

- The Whitehall Road Regional Park should be having a grand opening later this summer, but no date has been scheduled yet.
- Ms. Kristy Owens has been appointed the Director of CRPR.
- CentreGives raised \$6580 to go towards the Whitehall Road Regional Park construction.
- Millbrook Marsh construction continues with the new welcome center and the expanded education building.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Wheeler announced the Committee that Ms. Castrechini will be leaving the township for a new position. Ms. Wheeler thanked Ms. Castrechini for her hard work in assisting the Committee over the past four (4) years. All the Committee members thanked Ms. Castrechini and wished her well in her new endeavors.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Solic made a motion to adjourn at 6:25 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koch. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 18, 2023 beginning at 5:30 pm.