

North Strabane Township Comprehensive Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan

Meeting Minutes #5

March 17, 2023 - Municipal Building

In attendance:

Emily Holmes, Township Supervisor
Matt Cunningham, Parks, and Recreation Director
Lisa Sheehan, Chair of the Parks, and Recreation Board
Michelle Quinn, Member of the Parks, and Recreation Board
Josh Hickman, Community Volunteer and Scout Leader
Jill Motzer, Citizen Volunteer
Donald Progar, Citizen Volunteer
Davis Garner, Youth Citizen Volunteer
Heather Cuyler, Pashek+MTR

Absent:

Steve Glancy, Youth Soccer Organization Leader

Discussion Items

1.1 Where are we in the process?

1.2 Review of the Mission Statement:

The committee reviewed the draft mission statement. Edits were made to read:

***The Mission of North Strabane Township's Parks and Recreation Department is:
To enhance the quality of life, year-round, for all ages and abilities by providing safe, sustainable
places to engage the community in activities of play, celebration and recreation while honoring
the local heritage for future generations.***

The consultant met with Chuck, Parks Manager, to gain a better understanding of Community Park maintenance and operations.

Discussion items included:

- Concession stand area: installation of French drains, gutters.
- Field #3 first base outfield netting
- Field #4: no lights, is there a better use of this field?
- Park area on the other side of the creek: Public works are storing items and dumping supplies in this area. Could this area serve a better purpose? Dek Hockey? Where would Public works keep these supplies? Lindley Mine?
- Basketball courts are cracking even though they have recently been top coated. Could these courts be renovated to include pickleball?
- Water is a problem behind the basketball courts.

- Steep slopes: replanting to reduce maintenance; used for sledding riding.
- Pavilions are rented most weekends. People love the kitchen.
- No permanent lights in Quail Acres Pavilion
- Garage is heated.
- Additional storage is needed.
- Delivery to the parking area can be difficult.
- Utilizing “baseball pavilion” as storage.
- Reliant on Public Works for specific equipment such as the backhoe. This can make projects challenging.
- Can the exiting building be expanded off the back?
- Staff: Two Full-Time, Two-Part-Time and Seasonal staff.
- Weekends are covered by Full Time Staff in the morning and seasonal staff the remainder of the day.

1.3 Analysis of current and future programs.

The committee discussed future programs and the need for indoor recreation space. This space could provide opportunities for indoor youth and adult sports. The sports could include flag football, pickle ball, soccer, before and after school care, meeting rooms for classes and activities, expanded summer camps.

1.3 Greenways and Connectivity

The committee reviewed the Natural Resource Analysis Map. The consultant indicated the possible connections to assets in the community including Alexander Parkette, McDowell Lane Park, Borland Manor Parkette, Peters Lake Park, Canonsburg Lake, Community Park, Gambles area, Eighty-Four Lumber Company Park (floods), newly acquired 84 Property, Schools, Bike Routes A & S, Montour Trail, and Panhandle Trail.

The analysis should take a closer look at possible greenway connections and preservation as the growth of the community is rapidly occurring. The Gambles area is an unknown. The consultant will discuss this area with Neil.

The area near Brownlee Road is currently being developed and could provide a connection to Sugar Run Road on the Bike Route.

1.4 Public Engagement: Who else should we bring to the table?

Others that could bring value to the project include:

- Trek Bike Shop, McMurray
- Tandem Bike Shop, Hendersonville
- Montour Trail Group
- Peters Township Parks Department
- Members of Save the Canonsburg Lake
- Chartiers Creek Watershed Alliance
- Audubon Society

Next Steps: Development of Additional Public Outreach Opportunities.

July 22: Touch a Truck

August 5: Community Day

Next Meeting June 21, 3:30-5:00 PM

The information contained in these minutes was recorded by Pashek + MTR and represents our interpretation and understanding of the discussions that occurred during the meeting. Please notify Pashek + MTR within one week of distribution. Otherwise, minutes will be distributed as final, and assumed accurate as written.

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Date Prepared: June 1, 2023

Distributed to: North Strabane Township: Matthew Cunningham & Study Committee.