

CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
GENERAL FORUM
January 28, 2019

Danelle Del Corso called the regular January 28, 2019 meeting of the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) to order at 7:01pm in the Forum Room of the Centre Region COG Building.

Members present: Mses. Dauler, Engeman, and Lafer, and Messrs. Barlow, Brown, Murphy, and Myers, State College Borough; Ms. Stilson and Messrs. Bernier, Fragola, Francke, and Lynch, College Township; Ms. Dininni and Messrs. Buckland, Miller and Ricciardi, Ferguson Township; Mses. Del Corso and Spencer, and Messrs. Stevenson and Strouse, Halfmoon Township; Messrs. Graham, Hameister, Harden, Lord, and Wilson, Harris Township; Ms. Whitman, and Messrs. Abrams and Downsborough, Patton Township.

Others present: Messrs. Bair, COG Fire Director; May, CRPA Director; Steff, COG Executive Director; Viglione, COG Finance Director; Erickson, Patton Township Manager; Fountaine, State College Borough Manager; Pribulka, Ferguson Township Manager; Vidic, Centre Soccer; Stone, Nittany Valley Environmental Coalition (NVEC); Thompson, NVEC; King, State College Borough Assistant Manager; Hoffman, State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA); Heiser, SCBWA; and Mses. Adams, COG Refuse and Recycling Administrator; Merrell, CRPR Supervisor; Salokangas, CRPR Director; Stamm, Recording Secretary; Farkas, Harris Township Manager; Young, Penn State; Blair, NVEC; E. and G. Brandt, State College Area School District; Matason; Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority (CRPRA); and Ishler, CRPRA.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Vidic, Centre Soccer President, stated that two fields that are relied on heavily by multiple sports' groups are closed for the spring due to overuse. He stated that those fields are at Homestead Park and Orchard Park. He added that the closure of those fields will impact over 200 players and very difficult to for the organizations to overcome. Mr. Vidic reiterated that having turf fields in the area would be beneficial.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Hameister and seconded by Mr. P. Buckland that the minutes of the November 26, 2018 General Forum meeting be approved as presented. The vote in favor to accept the minutes was unanimous.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Del Corso stated that as this is the first meeting of the year it is time for the nomination of officers and that the General Forum has previously established a rotation which would have Ferguson Township serving as Chair and Patton Township as Vice-Chair.

A motion was made by Mr. P. Buckland and seconded by Mr. Stevenson that the General Forum appoint Steve Miller as Chair and George Downsborough as Vice-Chair of the Centre Region Council of Governments for a term beginning January 28, 2019 and ending with the General Forum's first meeting during January 2020. The motion was unanimously approved.

MEETING ETIQUETTE GUIDELINES

Mr. Steff explained that the General Forum adopted a Resolution in late 2018 to establish guidelines for meeting etiquette to encourage all COG related entities to maintain an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. He added that moving forward the practice will be to distribute the Resolution and Guidelines each year and to each newly elected official.

RECOGNITION AWARD

Mr. Miller presented Ms. Del Corso with a plaque to recognize her contribution to the COG during 2018. Ms. Del Corso thanked everyone for the opportunity and support. She reviewed a few accomplishments from the year and shared her admiration for the collaboration to move major projects forward.

GENERAL FORUM MEETING DATES

Mr. Downsborough reviewed the proposed meeting dates and times.

A motion was made by Mr. Downsborough and seconded by Ms. Lafer that the General Forum adopt the following 2019 meeting schedule with all sessions beginning at 7:00pm:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 28	COG Building	July 29 **	COG Building
February 25	COG Building	August 26	COG Building
March 25	COG Building	September 23	COG Building
April 22	COG Building	October 28	COG Building
May 28 *	COG Building	November 25	COG Building
June 24	COG Building	December 17***	COG Building

*Date changed to Tuesday to accommodate the Memorial Day Holiday

**Date change to fifth Monday to accommodate preparing the 2020 Program Plan.

***Date changed to third Tuesday of the month to accommodate the Christmas Holiday

The motion was unanimously approved.

CODE BOARD OF APPEALS RE-APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Dauler explained that there are three re-appointments to the Centre Region Building and Housing Code Board of Appeals suggested by the Public Safety Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Dauler and seconded by Mr. P. Buckland that the General Forum forward the following slate of nominations to the member municipalities for re-appointment to

the Centre Region Building and Housing Board of Appeals for a three (3) year term commencing February 15, 2019:

Core Board:

Adam Fernsler, P.E., LeedAP
J. Michael Leakey, R.A. (Alternate)

Property Maintenance Board:

Sarah K. Lowe

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENT OF ALPHA COMMAND OFFICERS

Mr. Bair, Regional Fire Director, thanked everyone for the support the fire company has received and for the support of many initiatives that occurred during 2018. He asked the body to appoint the recommended appointments listed in the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. P. Buckland and seconded by Ms. Stilson that the General Forum appoint the following individuals to the positions of Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chiefs for 2019:

Chief	Jason Troup
1 st Assistant Chief	Tony Berrena
2 nd Assistant Chief	Buck Harpster
Health & Safety Officer	Svend Pedersen”

The motion was unanimously approved.

JANITORIAL SERVICES – ALPHA FIRE COMPANY

Mr. Graham stated that the company currently providing services are retiring and that the General Forum needs to approve a new contract for services at the three fire stations. He added that 5 bids were submitted and reviewed in late 2018.

A motion was made by Mr. Graham and seconded by Ms. Dininni that the General Forum, as recommended by the Finance Committee, authorizes the COG to enter into a contract with Wizzards Janitorial Services beginning on February 1, 2019 and running through the end of 2019. The motion was unanimously approved while Halfmoon Township members abstained.

REGIONAL REFUSE AND RECYCLING CONTRACT

Ms. Adams stated that the residents of Benner, College, Harris, Patton and Ferguson Townships are in the final year of a 5-year contract. She explained that she is asking for the General Forum to authorize the COG Administration Office to advertise a Request for Bids and enter in to an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority (CCRRA).

Ms. Adams gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the following:

- Timeframe for the 2020 contract.
- Details from the base bid and highlights of the four changes from the current contract.
- The MOU with the CCRRA with rate history.
- Alternates for cart collection.
- Pros and cons for the Organics Program and the explanation for the PSE Committee recommending to not move forward with the project at this time. Ms. Adams explained the comparisons made with the State College Borough program and the carbon footprint expected from running the organics program.

A motion was made by Mr. P. Buckland and seconded by Ms. Whitman that the General Forum, as recommended by the Public Services & Environmental Committee, authorizes the Executive Director to advertise a Request for Bids (RFB) for the regional refuse and recycling contract and to enter in to a memorandum of understanding with the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority to define the Authority as the designated subcontractor for collection services of recyclable material in the Request for Bids. The motion was unanimously approved.

WHITEHALL ROAD REGIONAL MASTER SITE PLAN REVISIONS

Mr. Miller explained the process for this topic since it requires unanimous General Forum approval. He added that there would be time for public comment.

Ms. Salokangas gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the following:

- Timeline for the project history and budget amendments
- The site plan being worked on
- Phase I Development review and concept plan
- An updated timeline.
- Review of the requested four changes of the all-season pavilion changes, the swapping of a soccer field and tennis courts, and the re-introduction of a three-bay storage building.

A motion was made by Mr. Lord and seconded by Ms. Stilson That the General Forum, as recommended by the Centre Region Parks Capital Committee and the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority, approve revisions to the Master Site Plan for Whitehall Road Regional Park as to provide for an all-season pavilion attached to the restrooms/concession building; that the two shelters remain in the plan but not included in Phase I; that the location of the tennis

courts/indoor tennis building be switched with the soccer field; and that the re-introduction of the maintenance storage building and its location be identified on the Master Site Plan.

Mr. Miller opened the public comment time regarding this agenda item with a five-minute per person time limit.

Ms. Blair, NVEC, stated that she had concern about the changes and questions what type of items would be stored in the storage building since it is located above the watershed. She added that turf on the fields is detrimental to insects and wildlife.

Mr. Stone, NVEC, strongly urged no installation of turf fields or the use of pesticides and added that fields for local kids should not receive funding from outside sources. He stated that the fields should be not be used for profitable tournaments to outside organizations so the fields are in good shape for the groups in the Centre Region.

Mr. Hoffner, State College Borough resident, expressed concern about the storage building because of water protection issues.

Mr. Vidic, Centre Soccer, reiterated the desperate need for additional fields in the area and reminded members that the money has been borrowed for some time and it is time to move forward.

Ms. Salokangas and Mr. Steff both responded to clarify that the central maintenance facility is near the Nittany Mall and that this storage building would be primarily to house a few mowers and tractors similar to the building installed at Oak Hall Park. Ms. Salokangas also mentioned that the amount of applications the agency uses to treat the fields are four times less than what is typically used on farm fields and that the agency follows best management practices for turf maintenance.

Ms. Dininni questioned where the dog park is on the map and if that area would be graded during Phase I. Ms. Salokangas responded that the dog park is not included in Phase I of the park but does remain in the Master Plan. She added that there would be some earth work in that general area for the field installations.

A motion was made by Ms. Dininni and seconded Ms. Engeman to amend the original motion to include a request that areas that are part of Phase 2 would not be graded at this time.

Ms. Dininni stated that both the Water Authority and Ferguson Township had requested that the area not be graded if it will not be used for parkland to avoid runoff towards the well-heads. Mr. Lyncha stated that the engineers may need to grade some portions of that area to get the earth work to balance and that it is an engineering issue. Mr. Graham and others agreed that the engineers should not be restricted or micro-managed. Mr. P. Buckland stated that the plan for the park will be subject to Ferguson Township's aggressive storm-water ordinance and the engineers on the project will need to comply.

The motion amendment failed 1-23.

A motion was made by Mr. P. Buckland and seconded by Mr. Meyers to recess for collaboration of the unit vote on the original motion. This motion passed unanimously at 8:15pm.

At 8:27pm Mr. Miller called the General Forum meeting back to order and the recording secretary called the unit vote.

The original motion passed with 5 yays with 1 (Halfmoon Township) abstained.

RESOLUTION 2019-1 RECORD DISPOSITION

Mr. Steff explained that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission established guidelines for the disposal of public records. He added that by way of Resolution 2019-1 this would approve records for destruction in accordance with the Municipal Records Manual.

A motion was made by Ms. Del Corso and seconded by Mr. Francke that the General Forum adopt Resolution 2019-1 authorizing the destruction of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual, most recently approved by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Division of Archival and Records Management Services. The motion was unanimously approved.

ACTIVITY REPORT

Mr. Steff explained that a Learning Lunch is being held at the State College Borough Water Authority with Executive Director, Brian Heiser and his staff. He encouraged anyone to contact him with any questions.

UNIVERSITY REPORT

Ms. Young distributed information regarding the Happy Valley trademark being purchased. She explained that at this time it is in very beginning stages and that she does not have much information yet. She added that it may take 6 to 12 months for approval.

Ms. Young stated that regarding the West Campus Parking Deck the Traffic Impact Study is not yet completed but the University is weighing concerns and alternative solutions.

Ms. Young reported on the upcoming Musser Gap public forum with students and Clearwater Conservancy. She invited people to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Mr. Downs brough reported that a better part of the Executive Committee meeting was spent on the reorganization for 2019, they reviewed the agenda topics for the General Forum meeting and discussed doing a better job with strategic planning. He added that the items attached to this agenda

packet are in an attempt to gather better data and urged others to let the Executive Committee know if there are suggestions to do things better.

Public Safety Committee – Mr. Dauler reported that the committee held the election of officers for 2019, approved the recommendations for appointments for the Code Board of Appeals, and staff provided updates. She also reviewed some potential future items for the committee.

Finance Committee – Mr. Graham reported that the committee reviewed future topics for 2019.

Human Resources Committee – Mr. Wilson reported that a job description for the library was approved and the personnel handbook was forwarded to a solicitor for review. He added that the committee has started a job description for the COG Executive Director.

Public Services and Environmental Committee – Mr. Hameister reported that the committee reviewed the RFP and that an upcoming joint meeting with the Finance Committee will be discussing a joint purchase agreement for solar energy.

Transportation and Land Use (TLU) Committee – Ms. Lafer reported that the committee completed the reorganization items for 2019 and reviewed future agenda items. She added that the February meeting has been cancelled.

Centre Regional Planning Commission/CCMPO – Mr. Miller reported that the CRPC and CCMPO has not yet met this year so there is no report.

Steering Committee for Parks and Recreation Regional Comprehensive Plan – Mr. Lord stated that the committee continues to work on the randomized survey and that there is a public meeting set for January 30 at 7pm at the State College High School. He added that the meeting has two purposes; to gather information from the public and to inform the public about the planning process to get them excited to participate throughout the year.

Parks Capital Committee – Mr. Lord reported that the committee decided to adopt a quarterly meeting schedule for 2019 unless there is an item that needs special action. He added that the committee learned more about the contract for Millbrook Marsh Nature Center and that the goal is that the term of the contract will be long enough to cover any depreciation on any capital project completed.

Ad Hoc Facilities Committee – Mr. Harden stated that the committee reviewed the draft facilities manual to distribute to staff for feedback. He reported on possible future items for 2019.

Emergency Management Council – Mr. Miller reported that the first meeting will occur on January 30.

Parks and Recreation – Ms. Salokangas reiterated that the public meeting is set for January 30 and in the case of inclement weather the make-up date is February 6. She added that the Winter Carnival is coming up in Harris Township and encouraged people to attend.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Steff pointed out that there is a list of potential items that may come before the General Forum in 2019 attached in the agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the January 28, 2019 meeting of the COG General Forum was adjourned at 8:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Stamm
Recording Secretary