

CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
GENERAL FORUM
Minutes - May 28, 2019

Steve Miller called the regular May 28, 2019 meeting of the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) to order at 7:00 pm in the Forum Room of the Centre Region COG Building.

Members present: Ms. Dauler, Ms. Engeman, Ms. Lafer, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Myers, State College Borough; Mr. Bernier, Mr. Fragola, Mr. Francke, and Ms. Stilson, College Township; Ms. Dininni, Mr. Miller and Mr. Ricciardi, Ferguson Township; Mr. Graham, Mr. Hameister, Mr. Harden, Mr. Lord, and Mr. Wilson, Harris Township; Ms. Buckland, Ms. Whitman, Mr. Downsborough, and Mr. Treviño, Patton Township; Ms. Spencer, and Mr. Strouse, Halfmoon Township.

Others present: Mr. Bair, COG Fire Director; Mr. Kauffman, EM Coordinator; Mr. May, CRPA Director; Mr. Zilla, COG Principal Transportation Planner; Mr. Schneider, Code Agency Director; Mr. Steff, COG Executive Director; Mr. Viglione, COG Finance Director; Mr. Brumbaugh, College Township Manager; Ms. Farkas, Harris Township Manager; Mr. Pribulka, Ferguson Township Manager; Mr. Erickson, Patton Township Manager; Mr. Fountaine, State College Borough Manager; Ms. Alloway, Schlow Library Director; Mr. Binkley, COG Recording Secretary; Ms. Adams, COG Sustainability Planner; Ms. Salokangas, CRPR Director; Ms. Merrell, CRPR Supervisor; Ms. Petit, HR Officer; Ms. Young, Penn State; Mr. Songer, Centre LifeLink President; Mr. Rawson, Centre LifeLink Executive Director; Ms. Evans, Harris Township resident; Ms. Watt, State College Borough resident; Ms. Blair, President, NVEC; Mr. Stone, Treasurer NVEC; Mr. Thompson NVEC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Murphy was recognized at the podium as a citizen of the State College Borough. Mr. Murphy spoke to the importance of discussing the issues surrounding the shooting death of Mr. Osaze Osagie that took place in State College on March 20, 2019, and more broadly about the issues of discrimination and mental health. Mr. Murphy understands why his request of an agenda item to the May 28, 2019, General Forum meeting was not approved by the Executive Committee but feels these topics are worth consideration and discussion. Mr. Murphy thanked neighbors, State College Borough leaders, Township Managers, and Police Chiefs that have been actively engaged in conversation within the community and with community groups discussing these issues. Mr. Murphy said that although he understands that the Articles of Agreement define the scope of work that the COG may assume, he feels that the General Forum as a collective group of Elected Officials has the moral obligation and intermunicipal responsibility to engage in the topics that this tragedy has brought to light.

Mr. Miller said that the General Forum will look to pertinent ways of involving and adding to the discussion from its members and from members of the community in the future.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Dauler and seconded by Mr. Myers that the minutes of the April 22, 2019, General Forum meeting be approved as presented.

The vote in favor to accept the minutes was unanimous.

CENTRE LIFELINK UPDATE

Mr. Rawson and Mr. Songer presented a PowerPoint presentation to the General Forum to share information that was also presented at the Public Safety Committee meeting on April 9, 2019 to report on the current status of the organization, current or future concerns, upcoming large events which require planning, and opportunities for local government to assist the organization.

Mr. Rawson, Centre LifeLink EMS reported:

- Current status - In 2018 Centre LifeLink:
 - Responded to 6,389 ambulance calls and 1,803 van trips, a slight decrease from 2017
College Township: 1,047 (16%); Ferguson Township: 977 (15%); Harris Township: 438 (7%); Patton Township: 846 (13%); State College Borough: 2,514 (40%); Other: 567 (9%), were responding with or for an ambulance outside the Centre Region
 - Will provide EMS for State College 38 home games in 2019
 - Conduct 2-3 EMT courses in-house each year and 2 Phlebotomy Institute classes
 - Conduct monthly CPR classes
 - Provide tactical medical support for Centre Region police
 - Averaged 22.4 calls per day, 55% were ALS (Advanced Life Support)
 - Responded to 98.3% of total calls dispatched in 2018
 - Had a significant drop in volunteer hours; 11,036 volunteer hours, 3,067 less than 2017
 - The operational revenue over expense was over \$136,000, less the depreciation, LifeLink ended with a net loss of \$148,810; first time in 22 years the Agency was unable to fund the depreciation fund
 - Accredited by Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services, one of five in Commonwealth
 - Provide infection control for State College, Ferguson and Patton Township police
- Concerns - In 2019 these concerns include:
 - Direct pay - when insurances process claims for non-participating providers, payments are sent directly to the patient and Centre LifeLink is required to collect; In 2018, \$101,000 paid to patients that LifeLink had not been able to collect
 - Working to change legislation that would allow direct payment to ambulance service, regardless if they are participating/non-participating providers
 - Treat/No Transport - In 2020 legislation will take effect allowing payments for ambulance service to be reimbursed for response to a call and treatment of a patient that isn't transported; in addition, alternative destinations that will be approved for transport, i.e. urgent care centers; Centre LifeLink EMS Board has elected to start charging for these services in 2019
 - Reimbursement - Medicaid and Medicare rates do not cover the cost of ambulance service
 - Volunteerism - reported that in the 1970s there were 300,000 volunteers, today there are 38,000; LifeLink volunteerism hours have decreased, very few community-based volunteers

- In 2018 the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services reported there were 4,142 EMS providers did not renew their certifications; 2,827 were EMTs, a 10% drop in EMTs in one year; of the 2,827, 42% were age 30 or younger.
- Other ambulances going out of service; more residents outside the Centre Region are under- or non-insured; one call outside the region could equal two in the Centre Region in the same timeframe.
- Local Government assistance opportunities –
 - Ideas for an ambulance station in Patton or Ferguson Townships; one year left on a current building lease
 - Traffic signal at College Avenue and Puddintown Road
 - Consideration for future financial support

Specifically, Mr. Rawson summarized that rising inflation and under-employment forces many EMS providers to work multiple jobs, lack of funding to support initial and ongoing training make it unattractive for many to enter the EMS industry, and the decreasing number of volunteers, along with the requirement of Act 37, that agencies to be available and in service around the clock, are reasons that many Agencies are forced to replace volunteers with career staff or go out of service. Rising cost for EMS personnel, vehicles, benefits, equipment, fuel, insurance, facilities, and utilities coupled with lack of adequate payment for services is reducing the effectiveness of many EMS agencies across the state.

Mr. Treviño asked what the cooperation and collaboration was between Penn State EMS and Centre LifeLink and how large was the university's service.

Mr. Rawson responded that the University has 3 ambulances, the university is experiencing staffing issues as well. They commit an ambulance to the big sporting events and Centre LifeLink works as mutual aid on campus at these events as well. Centre LifeLink and Penn State EMS have a very good working relationship and the university will come off campus to respond to calls if Centre LifeLink is unable to. The university does an excellent job bringing in additional services during football games from across the state to help cover a 30-40 EMT squad that place themselves strategically around Beaver Stadium and have 4 or 5 ambulances available for transport. Centre LifeLink is able to limit then what they send to Beaver Stadium and then after the game, the ambulance is stationed downtown in their service area.

Mr. Songer commented that the University does not staff its EMS services during the week between Christmas and New Year's.

Mr. Lord asked a question regarding Direct Pay and if you have to accept the in-network rate what proportion of your cost would that be providing.

Mr. Rawson responded that the non-provider was in the neighborhood of \$300, and the average overall cost for Centre LifeLink to respond is \$418.

Mr. Myers asked with the increase in population what is the 7-9% decrease in calls attributed to?

Mr. Rawson said that although the numbers had declined from 2017 to 2018 they are up a little bit from the prior years and noted that 2017 was the year in which they had received the highest number of calls in their history.

Mr. Songer stated that an area of concern is not only population but an increase in traffic and road projects that will make the area easier to gain access to and will increase traffic, accidents, and incidents.

Mr. Francke asked if Centre LifeLink still had their AED program.

Mr. Rawson responded that Centre LifeLink will sell the AED, and do the onsite training and then do an annual service and training so that personnel are certified in CPR.

Ms. Buckland asked for clarification on Centre LifeLink members not having to pay for transport.

Mr. Rawson reported that Centre LifeLink offers an individual as well as a family membership and if you purchase a membership (approximately \$50 Individual/\$60 Family) it acts as your insurance that if you call 911 and Centre LifeLink is the dispatched ambulance service and Centre LifeLink bills your insurance, you are not held responsible for paying the unpaid portion that your insurance does not cover. Regarding the Treat/No Transport which would be service minus the need to transport (\$150) this fee is waived for members as well. Centre LifeLink currently has 4,300 members and is rising with marketing efforts. The membership drive that Centre LifeLink conducts annually helps to provide funds needed for its Capital Budget.

Ms. Lafer asked that as it relates to the lower number of ambulance calls in 2018 can any of that decrease be attributed to the Borough having limited the number of social functions to borough residents to 1-2 a week where alcohol may be served.

Mr. Rawson reported that they have seen a slight decrease and some stabilization from the changes that the Borough has made. Often times as it relates to alcohol-related calls, police get called and find an individual in a state that they don't feel comfortable leaving the individual alone in so an ambulance is dispatched for an evaluation and often times these individuals often fall into the Treat/No Transport category of calls.

Mr. Strouse asked about the direct bill issue concerning non-participating insurance companies sending payments directly to patients and what is the legislation that keeps Direct Pay in place.

Mr. Rawson said that current legislation is favorable to insurance companies because insurance companies had to be participating providers to directly pay Centre LifeLink and that amounts vary depending on whether the ambulance call is considered a BLS (Basic Life Support) or ALS (Advanced Life Support) call. Insurance companies set their own rates as to what they will reimburse ambulance services for and these reimbursements are not State or Federally mandated. Insurance companies often follow Medicare when it comes to determining a reimbursement number and these are some aspects that make it difficult to provide service to individuals.

Mr. Rawson added that he expects to see an increase in service calls once Centre Crest moves into its new location within the Centre LifeLink's service area. Out of approximately 240 beds, 2/3 of those beds fall into Medical Assistance which also sets their own rates of reimbursements.

Mr. Strouse asked if it was known how many individuals on average per year did not forward their reimbursement on to Centre LifeLink and what were the costs to collect on debts owed.

Mr. Rawson did not have the information with him to directly answer the question but said that those numbers were known and being monitored by their billing staff. Furthermore, Mr. Rawson noted that when an individual is sent to collections, 25% of anything collected upon goes directly to the collection agency but added legislation should be coming out soon that will address this issue.

Mr. Steff asked Mr. Rawson what state Centre LifeLink would be in within the next 3-5 years considering the current state of having to delay capital investments and equipment and with the declining number of volunteers and the general rise in call volume that Centre Life Link is experiencing.

Mr. Rawson stated that the postponement of an ambulance purchase for a year would be acceptable, but that an area of major concern is the decreasing numbers of volunteers and the added service calls from surrounding outlying areas whose own ambulance services go offline after a certain hour. This puts an additional strain on Centre LifeLink staff and financial resources.

Mr. Songer added that technology continues to improve which helps make Centre LifeLink operate more efficiently such as the LUCAS machine (performs mechanically controlled CPR compressions) which was purchased for Centre LifeLink with the help of the General Forum. However, because of the current state of things purchases like this may have to be delayed or deferred indefinitely.

Mr. Hameister asked if Alpha Fire Company and Centre LifeLink have been in discussions to combine operations at a satellite facility.

Mr. Rawson said that the idea of a combined satellite station is a definite possibility and that initial discussions have already occurred between Centre LifeLink and Mr. Bair on the issue.

Ms. Engeman asked what percentage of Centre LifeLink's budget was the result of individuals purchasing Centre LifeLink memberships. Mr. Rawson responded that out of the \$3.1-million-dollar budget approximately \$240,000 was obtained from memberships and an additional \$60,000 was obtained from donations that were received.

Ms. Engeman followed up her initial question by asking how Centre LifeLink sets the rate of their membership fees. Mr. Rawson responded that there is not a science to the number that they select but that their primary objective is to keep membership fees affordable and is used more to help with capital expenses like ambulances and new equipment more so than operational expenses. Centre LifeLink sent out 18,000 flyers and currently has between 4,200-4,300 memberships which encompass individuals and families from across the Centre Region and these numbers can vary from year to year (currently 20% choose not to renew

their membership each year) as people choose not to renew or move out of the area. Centre LifeLink works to replace these losses with new members and increase membership numbers overall.

Mr. Hameister commented that there is nothing that mandates a township to financially support a fire department like Harris Township does and asked if the same was true for ambulance services as well.

Mr. Steff said that there is no requirement for municipalities to financially support EMS services. Mr. Rawson added that broadly speaking municipalities are responsible to assure that there are fire and emergency medical services available within the municipality.

A motion was made by Ms. Engeman and seconded by Ms. Buckland that the General Forum, as recommended by the Executive Committee, designate the Public Safety Committee as the point of contact for Centre LifeLink to discuss concerns and proposals relating to the provision of emergency medical services to the Centre Region.”

The motion was unanimously approved.

UNIT VOTES AT GENERAL FORUM MEETINGS

Mr. Miller said that as it relates to unit votes at General Forum Meetings and the public observing and/or participate in individual unit discussions during unit votes mentioned that it was the opinion of the COG solicitor that although it is unclear that the Sunshine Act applies to COG actions in letter law, it does in the spirit of the law and that the General Forum should be following the guidelines within the Sunshine Act. Mr. Miller clarified that the public can listen to unit discussion but that the individual's right to participate is covered by their right to make comments to the General Forum as a whole.

Mr. Miller reviewed the three types of Unit Votes with the General Forum and the usefulness of having them documented so that municipal officials all know and have access to them.

Mr. Miller reviewed with the Executive Committee the three types of Unit Votes:

1. Unit Votes That Are Required by COG Articles of Agreement
2. Unit Votes From The Floor That Are Not Required by the COG Articles of Agreement
3. Unit Votes Requiring Adoption of a Municipal Ordinance or Plans

Mr. Miller mentioned that the first type of Unit Votes requires a quorum of each municipality to be present and votes are passed unanimously by units. Examples of these votes include borrowing money, real estate transactions and proposals to revise the Articles of Agreement. These votes will be advertised in the General Forum agenda as unit votes. The process is that discussion and debate will be had, the General Forum will break up into units and vote and then come back to the General Forum meeting. Individual votes are not recorded although a member may request it be recorded prior to the vote and presented to the Recording Secretary for the purpose of including them in the meeting minutes.

Mr. Miller said that the second type of Unit Vote is one that is called for on the floor and on any topic as specified in the COG Articles of Agreement. These are not votes that contain a municipal commitment so a quorum of each municipality is not required. Attending members of each unit vote as an act of the General Forum and not of the municipalities.

Mr. Miller said that the third type of Unit Vote are votes requiring adoption by municipal ordinance or resolution. These are not a true unit vote because the action is taken by the municipality in their own meeting. The General Forum meeting is recessed, a meeting is called with separately with each municipality and advertised as a municipal meeting and in these cases, the municipality does record the votes within their municipality. Examples would be the Act 537 plan, and loan guarantees. These votes require individual municipal action and are not really a vote of the units. If a municipality does not have a quorum or cannot come to a resolution, they bring the issue up at its own subsequent meeting. These actions cannot be completed until every municipality act on them.

Mr. Francke commented that the first two types of unit votes as written suggest that votes were being taken while in a recess of the General Forum meeting. Mr. Miller replied that the recess is for units to come to a decision and the unit vote is taken when the General Forum meeting reconvenes and the recording secretary calls the unit vote.

Mr. Francke said that a notation should be made to each type of unit vote on the Special Rules of Order document that when a unit vote is required, the Chair will recess the General Forum meeting to allow for unit discussion and then reconvene the General Form meeting so that the unit vote can be taken.

A motion was made by Ms. Lafer and seconded by Ms. Buckland that the General Forum, as recommended by the Executive Committee, approve Special Rules of Order to casting municipal unit votes at General Forum meetings.

Mr. Bernier asked that the Executive Committee consider directing staff to identify what the legal definition of conflict of interest is as it relates to the Special Rules of Order document for clarity to those members when advertising agenda item unit votes to voting members.

Mr. Steff said that he would be glad to do so if directed to by the Executive Committee.

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT AND SCREENING COMMITTEE

Mr. Downsborough said that this agenda item asks the General Forum to establish a Recruitment and Screening Committee for the next Executive Director of the Centre Region COG as recommended by the Executive Committee which has endorsed this proposal.

A motion was made by Mr. Downsborough and seconded by Mr. Harden that the General Forum, as recommended by the Executive Committee, establish a COG Executive Director Recruitment Screening Committee with one representative, either an elected official or a municipal manager, from each of the Centre Region municipalities, and the current Executive Director who would be a non-voting member. And, further, that the municipal appointments to the Committee be forwarded to the COG Executive Director by June 18, 2019.

Mr. Graham remembered a discussion at the Executive Committee about not having municipal managers not included on the Recruitment and Screening Committee. Mr. Miller stated that the proposed motion was agreed upon at the Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Myers voted in favor of and supports the proposed motion but mentioned that it may be unusual to have the current Executive Director be on the committee to help select the incoming Executive Director.

Mr. Murphy commented that in his experience, the person leaving a position is not included in the search committee to help select their incoming replacement and asked for insight on the thought process as to why the outgoing Executive Director should be included in the search process for this position.

Mr. Downsborough said that discussion did occur at the Executive Committee meeting about what Mr. Steff's involvement would potentially be on this committee. COG has only had one Executive Director for most of its existence and thus there is unique knowledge that Mr. Steff has that the committee may find useful. Secondly, the timeline for selection currently includes a 1-month working overlap between the current and incoming Executive Director so creating synergy between the two individuals would be optimal. Ms. Spencer stated that she had no objections to Mr. Steff's potential involvement on the Recruitment and Screening Committee if there was no conflict of interest and was in favor of using Mr. Steff's knowledge of the Executive Director position to help create the questions that the committee would ask and feels his overall involvement to the committee is an excellent idea.

Ms. Engeman stated that the length of tenure that Mr. Steff has had as the Executive Director and his extensive knowledge of the position make him a valuable resource to the Recruitment and Screening Committee.

The motion was approved 22-1 with Mr. Graham dissenting.

AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN A PERSONNEL CONSULTANT

Mr. Downsborough said that the Recruitment and Screening Committee may or may not want to hire a personnel consultant as it deems appropriate, to assist with the hiring of the next Executive Director of the Centre Region COG.

A motion was made by Mr. Downsborough and seconded by Mr. Francke that the General Forum, as recommended by the Executive Committee, authorize the Recruitment and Screening Committee, if deemed necessary, to retain the services of a personnel consultant to coordinate

the process for recruiting the next COG Executive Director and that the associated expenses be charged to the COG Contingency Fund.”

Ms. Engeman stated that in her opinion a personnel consultant may not be beneficial to the process and may be an unnecessary expense.

Ms. Spencer stated that she also felt that looking outside to find help for recruitment and guidance for this position may be unnecessary.

Mr. Myers sees the points made by Ms. Engeman and Ms. Spencer but also feels the hiring of a Personnel Consultant may be very helpful in determining the best pool of candidates for the position and additionally mentioned that the committee will be able to hire a Personnel Consultant only if they so deem it necessary.

Mr. Miller said when and if to hire a Personnel Consultant would be up to the Recruitment and Screening Committee but that typically it is useful to hire the consultant at the beginning of the process because they help with both recruiting and screening candidates.

Mr. Downsborough mentioned that even though Patton Township hired internally for their Chief of Police, a national search was conducted. The consultant that was hired was a specialist in the recruitment for police services. The consultant had access to an already existing database of individuals seeking employment in police services thus helping to create a valuable pool of candidates for the Township to consider. Mr. Downsborough also referenced that conditionality of the motion of the committee being able to hire a Personnel Consultant if they so choose to do so especially as the committee determines what type of search the committee would like to conduct.

Mr. Bernier said that it is his experience that when hiring senior staff, consultants are invaluable to the recruiting process. He added through a scope of work the committee can define how it wants the consultant to be involved.

Ms. Whitman acknowledged the integrity of the committee and supports the decision to hire a personnel consultant should the committee so deem it necessary.

The motion was unanimously approved.

MAY ACTIVITY REPORT

Mr. Steff formally introduced Scott Binkley, the new Office Manager for the Office of Administration to the General Forum.

UNIVERSITY REPORT

Ms. Young thanked all of those that supported the 2019 International Town & Gown Association's City and University Relations Conference which was held May 19-22. Ms. Young said it was a big success in

showcasing why people come to our area.

Ms. Young said that the Musser Gap to Valleylands project expects to conduct education this summer on the five ideas that were presented by students. Ms. Young can be contacted if there are organizations or groups that would like presented to on this topic. It is also Ms. Young's intent to conduct a Lunch & Learn on the project as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Mr. Downsborough said that the issues discussed at the May 21, 2019, Executive Committee meeting were discussed at this evening May 28, 2019, General Forum meeting.

Public Services and Environmental Committee – Mr. Hameister referred to text on pages 7 and 8 of the May 28, 2019, General Forum meeting agenda which discusses using and not using carts. This item will be on the Public Services & Environmental Committee agenda for the June 6, 2019 meeting for continued discussion.

Public Safety Committee – The Committee did not meet.

Finance Committee – Mr. Graham said that during its May 9, 2019 meeting the Finance Committee decided not to support the request from the Public Services & Environmental Committee to borrow funding from the Centre Region Code Administration Budget - New Construction in order to purchase carts for the refuse program because the benefits did not justify the cost.

Human Resources Committee – Mr. Wilson reported that Mr. May presented information regarding staffing and recruitment within the COG Planning Agency and information about a possible future organizational assessment as some municipalities choose to hire their own planners. Also, a review of the six COG Office Manager job descriptions was conducted. Lastly, a request from Agency Directors was received for the solicitation of input from the Human Resources committee on the preliminary proposed personnel changes that will be proposed for 2020.

Transportation and Land Use (TLU) Committee – Ms. Lafer noted that no conclusions were made on the Act 537 Plan and that the issue will be revisited as part of the discussion when the Centre Region Comprehensive Plan is presented to the committee. Also discussed was May being National Bike Month and the opportunities individuals who use alternative methods of transportation, mainly bicycles, as the area works towards achieving national status as a Silver level bike community.

Parks Capital Committee – The Committee did not meet.

Ad Hoc Facilities Committee – Mr. Harden stated that Coordinator, Mr. Don Francke, has offered to volunteer to help COG staff in its facilities management function. Discussion occurred about the possible hiring of a Facilities Manager with the intent to work the position into the 2020 Program Plan. Finally, several members of the committee toured office space currently under consideration for the Parks and Recreation Agency to relocate their Agency to.

Steering Committee for Parks and Recreation Regional Comprehensive Plan – The Committee did not meet.

Parks and Recreation – Ms. Salokangas reported that the community pools opened over Memorial Day weekend without any major problems and the new square point of sale system worked very well.

She said that 5 tournaments have already been held at the Oak Hall Regional Park and at Hess Softball Complex with only 1 of those tournaments having to end early.

An update was provided on the \$65,000 grant that was awarded through the PA Office of Aging for the Active Adult Center. Permanent illuminated signage is in place at the Center. A glass door enclosure for the Center is expected to be installed soon as well as a new projector and sound system. Installation of a large dividing wall will take place later this Summer.

The online survey closed having received 763 responses and the Steering Committee for Parks and Recreation Regional Comprehensive Plan and will receive a summary document of the survey in time for its next meeting. Additionally, a report is expected from Penn State on the mailed survey as well.

Ms. Salokangas mentioned that the graphics to the Rec on the Go truck have been completed and are currently in the process of purchasing the equipment that will go inside and the truck will also be at several upcoming events where information on programs for this Summer will be distributed.

Ms. Salokangas shared renderings of the 16,000 sq. ft. all ability and universally accessible playground equipment that will be located at the Whitehall Road Regional Park.

The land development plan for Whitehall Regional Park will soon be submitted to Ferguson Township. The Agency applied for a tree revitalization grant. Native tree selection and parking lot requirements will be revisited before soon sending the plan to Ferguson Township for approval.

A \$250,000 DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) grant was completed for the LED sports field lighting. The agency has also been awarded a \$20,000 from USA Football for the same project with grant writing and one-on-one fundraising being a daily focus of the Agency.

Mr. Lord commented “WOW!” to the fundraising efforts done by the Agency for the Whitehall Road Regional Park.

Mr. Steff asked Ms. Salokangas to briefly describe the relationship with Centre Soccer and the field usage commitment.

Pam Salokangas said that there are two priority use agreements between Whitehall Road Regional Park and Centre Soccer.

1. An agreement with the Centre PA Convention and Visitors Bureau relating to the

purchase of LED sports field lighting. This current draft agreement does not contain a cap as to the number of weekends that the Centre PA Convention and Visitors Bureau could reserve. The Parks and Recreation Authority believes there should be a cap and will discuss with the Centre PA Convention and Visitors Bureau revising the agreement to contain one.

2. A co-fundraising agreement which has not yet been finalized but has the Centre Region Parks and Recreation partnering with Centre Soccer to harness their motivation and contacts within the community to co-fundraise a goal of \$1 Million dollars. This is a priority use agreement that entails for them that uses benchmarking standards and if the goal is met Centre Soccer will receive priority use of one synthetic turf field and one grass field from February-November. Centre Soccer also will be given priority use on some weekends with the flexibility to give up some weekend dates to allow other user groups to hold their tournaments and championships.

According to DCNR, these two priority use agreements do not affect current or future funding allowed if the park remains open and accessible to the public.

Ms. Whitman asked if there were other organizations within the Center Region that had a similar fundraising prowess as that of Centre Soccer and if so, is there a concern that a precedent would be set where obligations are made ahead of time to organizations that might exclude other organizations that did not have a fundraising agreement with the Agency.

Ms. Pam Salokangas responded that the agreement with Centre Soccer doesn't preclude any youth or adult group wanting to fundraise or donate to the Whitehall Road Regional Park project. A fundraising program is in place with various levels of funding, but the Agency does not plan any additional agreements to allow space to remain open for other groups.

Centre Regional Planning Commission/CCMPO – Mr. May stated that there is a TIP amendment in the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization and \$20 million dollars approved to complete the preliminary engineering on the State College area connector which would connect 322 to Potters Mills which will go on the 2019-2022 TIP project. Public comment will be open until June 3, 2019, at Noon to the MPO.

Mr. May said that the Agency received the Census Bureau population estimates for the 2018 municipal and county level. Between 2010 and 2018 overall growth of the Centre Region grew 5%, Centre County grew about 3.81% which does not include Benner Township. Harris Township grew over 20% and Ferguson Township grew over 10% according to statistical calculations. More information will be provided when the 2020 census is complete.

Lastly, Mr. May announced that CRPA has hired Pam Adams as the Agency's Sustainability Planner and that she starts working with the Agency on Monday, June 3, 2019.

Ms. Dininni asked for clarification about some language regarding Potters Mills Gap updates. Specifically, about the 14' and 15' crossover lane restrictions and what does that indicate and with no median or barriers how are the lane restrictions being monitored.

Mr. Zilla said that a width restriction was just that and based on vehicle width. These most often apply to trucks, wide loads, mobile homes, etc. and would typically be enforced by Pennsylvania State Police and Pennsylvania Motor Carrier Safety. This is typically done by roving inspections or stationed officers.

Ms. Dininni stated her desire to lodge a public formal complaint as she has witnessed clear violations of the set lane restrictions in this area and acknowledged her concerns about the safety on this stretch of highway. Ms. Dininni suggested the installation of a camera(s) in this area to help target violators and/or increase the Pennsylvania State Police presence in this area.

Schlow Library – Ms. Alloway thanked those who attended the Lunch and Learn at Schlow Library on May 23, 2019 and encouraged anyone that would like a tour to contact Ms. Alloway.

Ms. Alloway announced that on June 1, 2019, the Summer Reading Program will begin with activities at and around the Library. Ms. Alloway encouraged everyone to support the State College Rotary Ice Cream event because they do provide the Library with grants for various activities each year. Ms. Alloway also commented that reading is for everyone and encouraged families to read together.

Ms. Alloway stated that June, July, and August were the busiest time of the year at the Library and noted the limited number of free parking spaces available for Library patrons. She strongly encouraged individuals staying for an extended period not use these spots. Ms. Alloway also encouraged individuals to navigate the library parking lots with caution as there are often small children and handicapped individuals accessing it. It was also noted that if you are using the Library parking lot but not visiting the Library a towing company will be notified.

Mr. Miller asked Ms. Alloway if the Library had received any donations from Centre Gives in 2019.

Ms. Alloway responded by thanking everyone that had donated to the Library through Centre Gives. Ms. Alloway announced that the Library had received the most money raised with over \$52,000 coming from 512 individual donors. Finally, Ms. Alloway mentioned that this backing was another way that the community has shown their support and appreciation for the Library.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the May 28, 2019 meeting of the COG General Forum was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Binkley
Recording Secretary