Ms. Del Corso called the August 21, 2018 meeting of the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) Executive Committee to order at 12:16pm in the COG Building meeting room.

**Members present:** Mses. Del Corso and Stilson; and Messrs. Abrams, Harden, Miller, and Myers.

**Others present:** Messrs. Hudson, Ferguson Township resident; Heiser, State College Borough Water Authority Executive Director; Viglione, COG Finance Director; and Steff, COG Executive Director; Mses. Dininni, Ferguson Township resident; Merrell, CRPR Recreation Services Manager; Salokangas, CRPR Director; and Stamm, Recording Secretary.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mr. Hudson, Ferguson Township resident, stated that he has concern regarding the design and process of Phase I of the Whitehall Road Regional Park. He stated that the direction of the leadership of this project could reconsider some items in the park. Mr. Hudson added that many amenities are ones that are already available someplace in the region. He then distributed handouts to the members of the committee containing a list of potential organizations to be consulted and a list of his recommendations to be made the architectural plan of the park.

Mr. Abrams questioned when the plan was completed. Ms. Salokangas stated that the amended version was completed in 2013.

Ms. Dininni, Ferguson Township resident, stated that during the planning period for this park the appendices show the comments given by various groups.

Mr. Brian Heiser, State College Borough Water Authority, introduced himself and stated that as of August 1 he was appointed as Executive Director of the Authority.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Myers and seconded by Mr. Abrams that the minutes of the July 17, 2018 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**PROPOSED REPORT ON WHITEHALL ROAD REGIONAL PARK**

Ms. Del Corso stated that this item is to schedule a presentation to be given by the Parks and Recreation Director, Ms. Salokangas as an informational item for the General Forum.

Ms. Salokangas stated that the presentation would be given by representatives of Stahl Schaeffer Engineering and Fernsler Hutchinson Architecture and that this information was also provided to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority at its last meeting. She explained that final numbers and cost estimates were still being worked on between the consultants and the authority. Ms. Salokangas
stated that the presentation would need approximately 25 minutes and the topics to be covered would be:

- Final design plans for the pavilion/concession/restroom area
- Sketch plans for the fields, playgrounds, utilities, trails etc. included in the Phase I
- Grant applications that have been submitted
- Next steps for the Land Development Plan with Ferguson Township

Ms. Del Corso stated that the Phase I project is defined and moving forward discussions should occur relating to how to collect feedback and inform the public for future phases to the park.

Mr. Abrams commented that this has been a long time of planning and that the park started because of the needs for kid sport activities. Mr. Harden agreed and stated that the Centre Region is behind in providing enough locations for sports and activities.

Ms. Stilson questioned how the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan plays into the planning for this park. Ms. Salokangas responded that there will be a survey and that information will be used in reevaluating future phases. Ms. Stilson suggested an action item by the General Forum to express that no more phases will be moved forward without reviewing what the citizens feel is important at this time.

Ms. Dininni, Ferguson Township Supervisor, stated that there seems to be a divide because Phase I has already been opened up to change the original plan from years ago such as with the Action Sports Park and Tree Nursery. She added that there still choices being made for the Phase I of the park. Ms. Del Corso responded that during the presentation there should be explanation for the items chosen and a process for what items are still under discussion.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Harden that the General Forum receive a presentation regarding the Phase I of Whitehall Road Regional Park. The motion was unanimously approved.

**ACTION TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR AUDITING SERVICES**

Mr. Viglione explained that this item asks that a recommendation be forwarded to the General Forum for a three year contract for auditing services to be awarded. He added that Maher Duessel submitted the best priced proposal and has performed the auditing services for COG in the past.

A motion was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Mr. Myers that the General Forum receive the recommendation for an agreement to be entered for auditing services. The motion was unanimously approved.

**PROPOSED POLICY ON CAPITAL FACILITIES**

Mr. Harden stated that this item is a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee for a policy to be established to require assessments to be completed and a depreciation schedule prepared for COG facilities prior to acquiring new building or expanding an existing one.
Mr. Steff stated that a draft resolution has been distributed to formalize the General Forum’s support of this policy.

A motion was made by Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mr. Miller that the General Forum receive the draft resolution regarding the policy for COG facility projects. The motion was unanimously approved.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Ms. Del Corso commented that a lot of strategic plans have been discussed through the budget process this year. She suggested that the Executive Committee and the entire General Forum should think about how to work on strategic planning because the COG does not own or manage the money, the municipalities do.

The committee discussed benefits to strategic planning and who that may involve. There were concerns about overstepping the purpose of COG and suggestions were made to widen the view to not react to situations but be able to plan for them. This was a brainstorming session for the committee to discuss overall organizational planning and to get members thinking about if there is more that should be done. No action was taken on this item.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Steff provided an update regarding the meetings attended to answer questions pertaining to the Program Plan and stated that a matrix will be prepared and distributed showing municipal comments and staff responses. Mr. Steff stated that the matrix is a good tool to evaluate the final budget.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Del Corso asked if there were any questions on the Matter of Records in the agenda and reviewed the agenda items to be forwarded to the General Forum.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the committee the August 21, 2018 meeting of the COG Executive Committee was adjourned at 1:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Stamm
Recording Secretary