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Serving the Borough of State College and the Townships of College, Ferguson, Harris and Patton.

The 2017 Priorities of the CRPR Authority Board

as approved by the Board

On Jan. 25, 2016, the COG General Forum approved the following five questions for each COG-related Committee or Board. This report summarizes the responses from the CRPR Authority Board:

1) What does the Board believe that its priorities should be (for 2017)?

- a. The approved [2016 Work Plan](#) combined with the [CRPR Strategic Plan \(2015-2020\)](#) accurately reflect the current and future priorities of the Authority Board.
- b. Continue to (1) keep all parks and facilities well-maintained (clean, attractive and safe) and enjoyable for visitors and (2) offer a full menu of recreation programs to residents of all ages.
- c. 2017 priorities will depend on 2016 progress with respect to:
 - i. Resuming the process to construct Phase 1 of Whitehall Road Regional Park.
 - ii. Continued improvements to the Centre Region Senior Center (facilities & programs).
 - iii. Based upon the operational successes at Oak Hall Regional Park and Hess Softball Field Complex, those features and improvements not built in Phase 1, along with the planned Phase 2 items should again be a priority, combined with the fundraising initiatives. For example, at Oak Hall, add the playground / sprayground, pavilions, lighting of Ballfield #1, dog park, Tournament Building, etc. At Hess, proceed to finalize and implement the Phase 2 Master Plan.
- d. Focus on the continued improvement projects and the associated capital fundraising for Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. The Board tabled a 2016 grant application which would have been targeted to build Phase 2 of the Spring Creek Education Building, which would have required a fundraising initiative to raise funds to match the 2017 state grant. The grant application and capital fundraising were postponed due to the other fundraising projects before the Board (Senior Center and Regional Park improvements). In addition several other major projects are necessary at the nature center: the barn and Educ. Building should be re-stained, the barn sprinkler system replaced, and the marsh boardwalk should be reset as a result of damages from several floods.
- e. Based upon the framework provided in the pending *Fundraising Feasibility Study*, in 2017 the Board wishes to expand the focus on fundraising in order to supplement, not replace, the municipal investments for P&R projects across the region, including:
 - i. Corporate sponsorships, naming rights, capital vs. operational donations, non-traditional sources, recurring donations, community park funding, etc.
 - ii. Should the Board explore seeking the assistance of developing and working with a Park Partner group for future fundraising initiatives?

2) How does the Board believe that those priorities should be ranked in terms of importance for the upcoming 2017 budget?

The listing order above reflects the Board's priorities.

3) Does the Board believe that there are services/projects that it may not be doing that it should be doing?

- The main factors that limit addressing additional projects involve staff capacity (given regular operations combined with the other priority projects) and funding.
- With the recent focus on addressing the shortage of facilities for sports and active recreation, continuing to promote and provide for passive park uses should remain a priority (for example, providing better maintenance of park paths and trails).
- While the Board is pleased with resident support for the newer activities that have become very popular locally (dog park, community gardens, pickleball, etc.), we also need the resources to stay on the cutting edge of newer activities, such as:
 - a. An updated skatepark, including following-up on developing an Action Park as proposed by Jamie Bestwick,
 - b. Develop a Bicycle Pump Track as proposed by several local bicycle groups.
 - c. Programming at the disc golf courses,
 - d. Provide designated areas and educational programs for the proper use of drones and r/c aircraft,

4) Does the Board believe that there are services/projects that it is doing that it should stop doing or do at a reduced level?

- No. In fact, there are many new projects and initiatives that could be explored pending available resources.

5) Does the Board believe that there are services/projects that it should do differently?

- No, but the Authority is always open to new ideas and suggestions from many sources, including municipal officials, residents and other agencies.