



# Clarion Regional Comprehensive Recreation Plan

Study Committee Kick Off Meeting Summary  
Tuesday, June 8, 2010

## I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Nancy Freenock, Clarion Borough Manager, welcomed the following people to the first meeting for the Clarion Borough Comprehensive Recreation Plan:

Seth Babington, Director, Clarion Rehab  
Patti Craig, Director, PE, Clarion Area School District  
Nancy Freenock, Manager, Clarion Borough  
Ed Hopkins, Clarion Borough Council & Recreation Committee  
Sue Leonard, Chair, Clarion Borough Recreation Committee  
Paul A. Weaver, Clarion Borough Resident  
Jason Noto, Clarion Borough Council & Recreation Committee  
Tracy Becker, Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry  
Greg Renninger, Clarion News  
Amy Wiles, AICP, Mackin  
Jim Watenpool, CPRP

### Consulting Team

Amy Wiles is the Lead Senior Planner at Mackin and will serve as Project Manager. She introduced Jim Watenpool, who is a subconsultant with Mackin and a certified parks and recreation practitioner (CPRP). She also explained that Lisa Olszak, a Public Involvement Specialist (not present) will be working on the project as well; primarily on the public meetings.

### Steering Committee

Amy reviewed the meeting schedule that has been set up for the Study Committee. The Committee will meet on a monthly basis for the duration of the project on the second Tuesday of each month at the Clarion Borough Office. The meetings will begin at 5:30pm and end at 7:00pm. Amy will email the agendas and meeting summaries to the Committee members who provided their email address on the sign-in sheet. Members without email will obtain their information through Nancy.

## II. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Amy distributed and reviewed the scope of work for the project. The project is being funded through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) as well as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Amy distributed and reviewed the project schedule; a draft plan will be complete by February 2011 and is expected to be adopted in April 2011. This will allow the Borough to apply for grant funds through DCNR in 2011 (April 21 is the grant deadline) for high priority projects.

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### III. PLAN PURPOSE

Amy explained that a Mission Statement will be developed for the Clarion Borough Recreation Committee, which will outline and identify the most important values according to the residents and key persons. In addition, a set of goals for parks and recreation will be developed. At this time, the following have been identified as the key goals for the recreation plan:

- Develop and expand partnerships with regional organizations, including the Clarion County YMCA, Clarion Area School District, Clarion University, and Clarion County Park to provide recreation facilities and programs. While the plan itself is funded through the Borough, its purpose is to serve as a regional plan for the 15-mile radius surrounding the Borough.
  - Clarion Borough does not offer any programs. They are looking to partner with other organizations.
  - The Little League uses fields, schedules games/practices, and helps with maintenance.
  - Clarion University (CU) uses Weaver Park for league clinics.
  - Residents can join the recreation center at CU.
  - Clarion Area School District uses fields at Weaver Park and CU.
  - Clarion YMCA uses Municipal Pool for swimming lessons.
  - Clarion County Park is only 5 miles away.
- Improve Borough parks and recreation facilities.
  - The Paul A. Weaver Community Park is 15.3 acres, with 9-10 developed. The Borough would like to develop concepts for improvements and future development of the park.
  - The Toby Boat Launch is in need of improvements. The Borough has received a \$55,000 grant through DCNR and will be complete by December 31, 2011. An engineer has been contracted.
  - The Borough would like to develop the Clarion Foundation Property, which is along the Clarion River between the Park and Toby Boat Launch, as a passive recreation area. The Borough has applied for funding for a master plan for non-motorized trails.
  - Wade Associates is doing a pool feasibility study. There has been discussion regarding whether or not the pool should be moved and/or moved indoors to be able to use year round. There is a community pool in Sligo that is run by the COG.
  - NCTA has an interest in connecting to the Borough.
- Explore the interest in creating a regional parks and recreation board to oversee recreation in and around Clarion Borough.
  - Clarion Borough currently provides recreation facilities used by individuals and families, regardless of residence; many users do not live in the Borough. They would like to determine the interest of surrounding



communities to create a regional parks and recreation board to help oversee and fund recreation in the region.

- The Borough has a 1.61 mil dedicated recreation tax; however, funding is an issue for the Borough as 72% of its properties are tax-exempt.

#### IV. PUBLIC INPUT

##### Stakeholders

The Mackin Team will interview up to 15 key persons, identified by the Study Committee. A discussion was held regarding a number of potential candidates to ensure a cross section of the population is represented.

*Action Item: Nancy will provide a list of key persons, with contact information, to Amy.*

##### First Public Meeting

As outlined in the project schedule, two public meetings will be held as part of the planning process. The first should be held within the first few months of the project in order to introduce the project and gather input in regards to parks and recreation needs.

*Action Item: The Committee agreed that the first public meeting should be held in September at the Main Street Center. Nancy will check on the availability for Tuesday, September 14, 2010.*

*Action Item: Committee members should email Amy any known local media contacts (newspapers, newsletters, radio stations, etc.).*

#### V. INVENTORY

As part of the project, the Mackin Team will conduct a thorough inventory of all Borough recreation facilities as well as regional facilities within the 15-mile radius. The inventory will be completed via site visits, interviews and data collection.

#### VI. NEXT MEETING

The next Study Committee meeting will be at 5:30pm on Tuesday, July 13, 2010.

#### VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.