



Clarion Regional Comprehensive Recreation Plan

Study Committee Meeting #2 Summary
Tuesday, July 13, 2010

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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

Patti Craig, Director, PE, Clarion Area School District
Nancy Freenock, Manager, Clarion Borough
Ed Hopkins, Clarion Borough Council & Recreation Committee
Walter Shook, Monroe Township Supervisor
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

II. PROJECT UPDATE

Amy provided an update on the project, as follows:

- The goals of the plan were reviewed with the Committee; there were no changes.
- Field views of all the Borough facilities have been conducted. The plan will include assessments of current conditions and identified needs/improvements.
- Interviews of stakeholders and key persons have begun. The following interviews and field views of other facilities have been conducted:
 - Clarion Area School District
 - Clarion University
 - Clarion County Park
 - Memorial Park
 - Helen Furnace Park
 - Clarion County YMCA

III. BOROUGH FACILITIES

Amy explained the 1997 Clarion Borough Recreation Plan has been reviewed and that many of the recommendations contained in the plan are the same needs being identified by the stakeholders today (i.e. the need for a regional recreation center, need for basketball courts, programs, etc.). The Committee agreed that the plan's recommendations are accurate; the reason for not implementing the previous plan was a lack of funding combined with a lack of administrative capacity to follow through with



projects.

This plan will therefore focus on implementation of the old plan's recommendations, particularly from a regional standpoint. Surrounding municipalities and school districts will be interviewed to determine interest in providing recreation facilities and programs at a regional level, rather than municipal.

- School districts to be interviewed include Clarion Limestone and Keystone.
- Municipalities include Clarion Township, Monroe Township, Paint Township, Highland Township, and Strattenville Borough.

Action Item: The consulting team will continue with interviews over the next month.

IV. VISIONING

A visioning activity was conducted with the Committee to identify the assets, opportunities, and challenges in regards to recreation in the Clarion region.

Assets

- Paul A. Weaver Community Park
- Toby Marina & Boat Launch
- Clarion Municipal Pool
- Clarion County YMCA
- Clarion University
- Clarion Foundation property
- Local school districts
- Clarion River – boating, fishing
- County Park
- Cook Forest
- State Game Lands
- North Country National Scenic Trail
- Union COG (Sligo) Pool
- Beaver Creek wetlands
- Wooded areas
- Trout stocked streams (Big Piney, Upper Mill Creek)
- Walkability of Borough

Opportunities

- Cross country course
- Walking/biking trail connections
 - Connect to Foxburg/Allegheny River Trail
 - University Manor trails
- River activities
- Develop signed walking loops in town



- Owens ball field
- Nature trail at Clarion Elementary
- Improve Paul A. Weaver Community Park
 - Soccer fields
 - Pavilions/picnic areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Basketball court
 - Expand park?
- Clarion Foundation property – hiking trails, passive recreation
- Borough-owned property on both sides of bridge over the Clarion River – potential to connect trails
- Offer programming related to water safety
- Partner with Venture Outdoors or other local organizations to expand programs such as river floats, kayak classes, etc.

Challenges

- Funding
- Cooperation
- Funding for ongoing maintenance – grants available for acquisition/construction but not for funding
- Resistance to trails

Action Item: Committee members should review this list and e-mail Amy with additional assets, opportunities, and challenges.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

Key Person Interviews

The Committee has provided the consultants with a list of key persons who will be interviewed over the next few months. These individuals represent a wide range of residents and organizations that can provide insight into the recreation needs of the region.

First Public Meeting

The public meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 7:00pm. The format and objectives of the meeting will be discussed in detail at the August meeting.

Action Item: Nancy will check on the availability of the Main Street Center for Tuesday, September 14, 2010.



Action Item: Nancy to e-mail Amy local media contacts (newspapers, newsletters, radio stations, etc.).

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next Study Committee meeting will be at 5:30pm on Tuesday, August 10, 2010.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.