



Parks Committee

May 20, 2025
Ferndale Community Park
41993 McBain Line, St. Thomas
6:30 PM

Present: Councillor Justin Pennings (Chair)
Councillor Scott Fellows (6:45 p.m.)
Michelle Lackey – Shedden Adult Soccer
Janice Fisher – Talbotville Member at Large (6:45 p.m.)
Ross Burgar – Fingal Heritage Park
Ruth Quennville – Talbotville Optimist Club
Jesse Walker – Shedden Soccer
Rod Hill – Ferndale Park Representative
John Price – *Staff, Parks and Facilities Operator
Brittany Jessome – *Staff Resource

Regrets: Krista Ferguson – Talbotville Ladies Soccer

1. Call to Order

Chair Justin Pennings called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Parks Committee hereby adopts the Agenda as amended, to correct Agenda Item 3. to read "Adoption of Minutes from March 26, 2025 Meeting", and to add agenda item 6.b – Parks Photography.

3. Adoption of Minutes from March 26, 2025 Meeting

The Parks Committee hereby adopt the minutes of March 26, 2025, as presented.

4. Recreational Program Update

Talbotville Ladies Soccer – No Representation

Shedden Youth Soccer – Michelle Lackey

The youth league has spent 2 weeks on the field already. They are still trying to recruit coaches. Enrollment is down but they have been getting some more inquiries.

They had a new instructor for the coaches clinic who was invited back next year. The instructor shared some new skills and drills and emphasized the importance of parent involvement to help build the sense of community.

There have been some instances of cars bottoming out at the entrance to Corsley Park, but it has been improving.

Staff will share a social requesting volunteer coaches and indicating registration is still open.

There are a number of concerns with the fields, they have been noted on the Keystone Grounds and Parks Maintenance Concerns Spreadsheet, and listed below:

- Eavestrough is missing from the washroom building
- 2 windows on the south end of the Teetzel barn where the paint truck is stored have rotted frames
- There is a pile of wood chips behind the Teetzel barn that makes it difficult to access the pathway to the storage area – can it be moved north
- Can the safety netting behind the goal frames along Union be installed
- Field #5 – north sideline has laying water
- Field #7-10 – SE and SW corners have holes in the corner kick areas from moving goalposts – needs to be backfilled
- Field #10 – the south sideline area has holes that need to be filled

- Field # 13 – has water laying causing holes and the swale is still washing out
- Field #14 – there is a hole in the east end
- Field #16 – There are holes in the penalty area at the south and west end
- Field #18 – There are holes in the penalty area at the east end

Shedden Adult Soccer – Jesse Walker

There are five (5) teams playing again in the women's league this year, the same number as last season.

One request was asking if the fields could be swept/raked after cutting or cut more often so the grass isn't as long and builds up on the fields.

Talbotville Member at Large – Janice Fisher

The wheels on the gate at the old entrance to Talbotville Optimist Heritage Park have been removed, along with the "Call for Rentals" sign.

The walking trail around Talbotville Optimist Sports Park needs grading as it has some washouts and weeds are growing in.

Deputy Mayor Pennings commented that the paving of the walking trail between Shay Lane and Optimist Drive has been tendered, and that job should begin in July.

Janice inquired about the trail through the field being finished. Councillor Scott Fellows commented that it is part of the conditions of the development, and that the Township will not assume responsibility of the development until all conditions have been met, so it will be something that gets completed.

The picnic tables at the Talbotville Optimist Sports Park have been leaving rust marks on the new pavement. Staff will investigate if it can be cleaned, and if there is a protective coating that can be put on the bottom of the tables to prevent rust.

Fingal Heritage Park – Ross Burger

There are no new concerns with the park.

Ross followed up on the request to have the gazebo painted this year. Deputy Mayor Pennings advised he was waiting to confirm with Township staff that the summer students were available to complete the job. Staff will follow-up and confirm availability.

Talbotville Optimist Club – Ruth Quenneville

Family Nights at Talbotville Optimist Heritage Park are going quite well this season. They have requested more games to be purchased.

The Talbotville Optimist Club would like to sponsor memorial benches, but inquired about the possibility of putting the Optimist Club Logo on the bench (similar to the Lions benches located throughout Dutton). Staff will investigate the possibility.

The club will be assisting with the Rosy Run doing road marshalling.

Ferndale Community Park – Rod Hill

Rod provided some photos of the low spots that accumulate water and become unpassable along the walking trail. There is a pile of mulch behind the Teetzel barn that could be used to build up the trail. This item will be added to the Keystone Grounds and Parks Maintenance Concerns spreadsheet.

The mulch is very low at the park, showing the landscaping cloth beneath and weeds growing in. Staff advised the park was on the rotation to receive mulch this year.

There was an inquiry into the possibility of lighting being added to the park/playground area to deter negative activity during the night.

There is a dead tree near the swings that is leaning significantly into the open green space.

There was a question about the possibility of a biking trail from Ferndale to Talbotville, as well as connecting the walking trail at Ferndale Community Park to the walking trail on the other side of Wellington Road. Staff advised that both these are ideas to present to Pl.ural for the Parks and Recreational Trails Master Plan.

5. Business Arising from Minutes

a. Keystone Grounds and Parks Maintenance Concerns Spreadsheet

Staff commented they will meet to go over the spreadsheet to assign responsibilities and assign timelines to the concerns.

b. Put Yourself in the Parks Contest

The Committee discussed the report presented by staff and accepted the new proposed format for the contest. It was asked if there was still opportunity to have residents post photos of themselves enjoying the Parks, and if a bonus prize could be added to all those who submitted a photo. This request can be accommodated.

Ross thanked the Talbotville Optimist Club for donating \$400 in prize money to obtain prizes for the contest. Ross has been able to acquire gift certificates from several local businesses by offering to purchase a gift certificate and having the business donate a gift certificate, with the Township recognizing the sponsors in their social media posts for the contest.

The contest will officially be called "Southwold's Park Days Giveaways". It will run for 10 weeks, beginning in June until mid-August.

c. Corsley Park Committee Representation

Staff provided a brief review of the report that went to Council and the changes that were made to the Keystone Complex Committee. The Parks Committee is now fully responsible for representation of Corsley Park.

Deputy Mayor Pennings provided comment that the Parks Committee was originally formed to report on the activities of the local groups who use Township facilities. He reminded committee members that while maintenance concerns are important and should be identified to staff as they arise, it is not the sole purpose of the meetings.

It was observed that there is no representation for the Fingal Ball Diamond. Staff commented there is a representative who is responsible for arranging the new youth league, plays in the adult league, and also lives in Fingal. Staff have been asked to reach out to this individual to inquire if they would be interested in joining the Parks Committee.

6. New Business

a. Parks and Trails Master Plan Survey

Committee members were encouraged to complete the interviews with Pl.ural, but if they were unable to, they were advised to complete the online survey to share their ideas with Pl.ural.

7. Adjournment

That the Parks Committee hereby adjourn at 8:10 pm, to meet again on July 15th, 2025 at 6:30 pm at Corsley Park, and September 16th, 2025 at Fingal Ball Park.