

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

February 8, 2024 – 6 PM
Borough Hall – Council Meeting Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting of the **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE** was called to order at 6:04 PM by Sue Yenchko, Chair. In attendance were Sue Yenchko, Rebecca Coleman, John Leverentz, Gene Koontz, Cayly Jones, Shirley Stark, Luke Fishel, Anna Clouser, Marsha Everton*, Amanda Seibert and Jenn Erickson*.
2. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.
3. **Minutes** of the January 11, 2023 meeting were presented. On a Coleman/Yenchko motion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Old Business –

5. **Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan Work Plan (CRPOS)** Mrs. Coleman gave an airing of what constituted the Plan as submitted by Council to DCNR for their review. A detailed description is attached to these minutes.**
Mr. Koontz made several comments following the presentation: This process of planning for the parks is still ongoing and missing pieces will be added. It's time to focus on the positives in the Plan. The actual cost to implement the Plan could be \$6 million dollars (as match for grant funds). We should plug-in these projects to the Council's Capital Improvement Plan (to support our share of requested grant funds). We could have 10 phases of projects @ \$4-900 thousand per year. Work on Memorial Park is first, and the 2nd project needs to be determined. Regarding the Connectivity Plan, we should tie-in the bike and walking paths, the sidewalk plan, etc. We should also coordinate with the Shade Tree Commission and the Stormwater Program (e.g. Woodside) and tap CDBG Funds where possible.
6. **Update on Dolbin Sculpture** – Ms. Yenchko reported Mr. Dolbin won't be able to work on the Lemoyne sculpture until March (Spring Break).
7. **Dogs in Lemoyne Parks (off leash) – New Signage** – Mrs. Coleman suggested that we use low cost (\$30 per sign. For 12-14 signs cost would be @ \$450), corrugated, red or green coroplast signs as temporary "No dogs off leash" sign as opposed to permanent aluminum signs. We will put an article explaining the reason for the signs in the Spring Newsletter.
8. **Intern's Report – Artifact Display – Cayly Jones** - Ms. Jones displayed the poster she developed of history of the Susquehannocks which will accompany the artifacts in the case. She is getting quotes to print a permanent descriptive poster to accompany the display.
9. **Market the Borough as a Livable Community (from 'Imagine West Shore')** – No update.
10. **Archiving Materials** - . Mr. Koontz and Mr. Leverentz did not find a "treasure trove" of historical materials in reviewing materials in and around the conference room but found plans for developments in the borough (1946). They also suggested "flat storage" for many of the old planning commission notes, plans and plot books. They will explore the basement storage area next.
11. **New Business**
12. **Lemoyne Memorial Program – Marsha Everton** - Due to a timing conflict, no presentation was made. However, Mr. Leverentz outlined the three areas proposed: 1) Meet with TFEC for details on constructing the program through the Heart of Lemoyne Fund, 2) Have Ms. Jones design a logo for the HOL Fund that can be used for the Memorial Tree (and others) Program, 3) Obtain a design for a single memorial plaque to be placed in parks where there are memorials.
13. **Bird Town Proposal** – Discussion was delayed until a future meeting.
14. **Other Business?** There was none.
15. **Next Meeting – March 14, 2024 @ 6 PM**
16. **Adjournment**

*Attended by ZOOM

**See attached Plan summary.

(Included in Minutes of Community Development, Parks and Recreation Committee)

Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space (CRPOS) Plan

2-8-2024

On February 8, 2024, a final overview of the Plan was aired during the Community Development/Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. Those in attendance asked for clarification and made comments/suggestions regarding various sections of the Plan. Here are the elements of the overview:

Lemoyne has 8 public parks – 3 are major, active parks, and 5 are passive parks featuring more natural playscapes and landscapes. A pictorial sequence showed suggestions for upgrading aspects of each of the parks.

Priorities for park redevelopment were: **Health and Wellness,**

Sustainable Systems,

Recreation Available for Everyone.

Suggested features to be embellished, changed or kept the same in passive parks were the following:

Flynn Park (9th Street) – Use natural playscapes, native plantings and interpretive/historical signage.

Schell Park (Sycamore Street) – Has most updated play equipment; replace barely-used basketball court with picnic facilities, add native plants and wayfinding signs, remove invasive species.

Frazer Park and Woodside Conservation Area – (5th Street and Washington Terrace) – plant native species and trees, add interpretive wayfinding signage, nature play areas, natural surface trail, and possible sensory garden. Use **Woodside Park** for educational events.

Fort Couch (Indiana Avenue) – Civil War breastworks remain, wayfinding and interpretive signage (from Negley Park) would be part of a walking tour.

Active Parks –

Maple Street Park (Maple and Lowther Streets)– Basketball court repaving, courts striped for tennis and pickleball, native plantings, restrooms with compostable toilets, inclusive play equipment, and signage.

Memorial Park (Herman Avenue & First St.) Remove invasive trees, gazebo and upgrade basketball court with potential for a 2nd one, Susquehannock-themed play area, add “ga-ga pit” for children, native trees and plantings, 2-room family restrooms and possible trail connections through the park, more ADA parking, and sand volleyball court.

Negley Park -(Cumberland Road) Renovate paddle sports courts to include both tennis and pickleball courts, renovate basketball court and add fencing; remove old play equipment, invasive, aging, ill, or unsafe trees, and, and replace trees 1:1 with low-growing trees as recommended by the DCNR Forestry Department. Add a restroom and accessible pathways; stabilize the retaining wall, make improvements to stairways, widen and regrade Stan Jones Drive, create an events lawn where baseball diamond is, add bench swings various locations, add inclusive play equipment add historic and wayfinding signage, and add a photo platform (if financially possible) and clear focal points for viewing of the river and cityscape.

An **appendix** to the plan includes: results of DCNR site visits,

Shade Tree Commission and Council guidelines for tree replacement,

Playground safety audits,

Municipal pool,

Fee schedules and

Lists of appropriate trees to be used in Lemoyne.

The Appendix also includes details of the Land Partnerships Grant application and the Park Rehabilitation and Development Program from DCNR for Memorial Park upgrades (a first step in improving the first of our parks).

The Plan has been submitted to DCNR for their review and approval, and the Cumberland County Planning office will also review it.

We will be adding supplemental information including:

Updated demographics,

Finish a connectivity plan to include trails, bike paths and sidewalk improvements and suggest phases for implementation over a 10 year period.

The Plan should also plug in to Lemoyne's Capital Improvement Fund, Stormwater Control program and Shade Tree Commission.

*The Plan and the Appendices are available at the link under the NEWS section on the lemoynepa.com website. **Many thanks for the Study Committee's diligent work and the hours of staff time dedicated to making this CRPOS Plan possible.***