

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

May 13, 2021 – MINUTES

1. The meeting of the **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE** was called to order via Zoom at 6:04 PM by Sue Yenchko, Chair. In attendance were Rebecca Coleman, Kasha Griva, John Leverentz, Rebecca Yearick, Judy McAlister, Marsha Everson, Bill and Marian Alexander, Richard Horn, Cindy Foster, Borough Manager and Jenn Erickson.
2. **Public Comment** –
 - Richard Horn – Concerned about cracks in the tennis courts, the state of the basketball court in Memorial Park and he asked about the survey results (which aren't finalized yet). Asked us to wait for the CRPOS plan before taking any park action concerning the trees/view.
 - Marsha Everton – Advocated for waiting for the CRPOS Plan before taking any action in Negley Park. Wants to collaborate on what to do, in order to make Negley Park the best ever. Mentioned safety issues, and wants a plan for the borough to present to N/S RR when meeting with them.
 - Bill Alexander – Agreed with points made by first two speakers. Also said N/S RR may or may not be able to help us with the hillside problem.
 - Marian Alexander - All trees are healthy. Have a plan in place before taking action.
 - Judy McAllister – Has had a great relationship with the park all her life and has seen all of the overgrowth diminish the view.
 - Kasha Griva – Noted that each of our parks has its own identity. And possibilities – nodding to history, e.g. Civil War, Susquehannock Village, Conservation, etc. Also advocating for parks having more ADA accessibility and sensory equipment in some park settings.
3. **Minutes** of the April 8, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously following a Coleman/Griva motion.
4. **Old Business** –
 - A. **Dedication Plans for Historic Marker** – June 13 @ 2PM – The PHMC list of dedication planning/execution was reviewed and suggestions were made about people to invite, program, PR for the event, etc. Mrs. Coleman and Ms. Yenchko will be working on the details. The event will be held, rain or shine!
 - B. **Cow Ceremony** – It was agreed that Council should officially recognize the donation to Negley Park of one of the cows from Cow Parade by Tim and Mary Webber Weston. The suggestion was to have a proclamation presented to them at the July or August Council meeting.
 - C. **Aesthetic Overlay** - Third Street Meetings – Ms. Yenchko has met individually with 2 businessmen on Third Street regarding possible improvements in the streetscape and business facades. Both were interested in doing what they could to uplift the whole streetscape. More individual meetings will be scheduled but it should be noted that the South Bridge project will impact that area and that must also be considered.
 - D. **Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan Work Plan (CRPOS)** – Mrs. Coleman and Mrs. Griva reported that the RFP was responded to by eight consulting firms. A scoring sheet has been prepared and a proposal review committee has begun working. The Study Committee will make recommendations to borough council for final approval sometime this summer.
 - E. **Negley Park** - A meeting was held at Negley Park on May 6th. Approximately 23 people attended (most from Bridgeport) Many who spoke reiterated that there should be no action until the CRPOS Report is finished. Ed Dix (Shade Tree Commission (STC) member) spoke about tree diseases, weaknesses, invasiveness and other points. John Leverentz (STC Chair) reiterated the STC's recommendations for removing certain trees.
 - F. **Calvary U.M. Church Use?** Ms. Yenchko noted that Rev. Jason Schwartzmen reported that Grace U.M. church and Camp Hill U.M. church have found that the church buildings will need so much remedial work their idea of a partnership for possible community uses is just fiscally unfeasible. The church will be listed for sale in the next week.
 - G. **Social Media** – We will be looking at more opportunities for better social media involvement in upcoming meetings. Mrs. Coleman's expertise in this area will be very helpful to this effort. We need to know what the best way is for communicating with all residents that is consistent and professional.
5. **New Business** –
 - A. **Memorials in Lemoyne** – Councilman Gene Koontz, a daily walker around town, observed, took photos and noted all of the memorials/dedications/gifts that appear on plaques all around Lemoyne. The total is more than 100! The complete listing and photos at least are now recorded in the borough office.
 - B. **W.S Rec. Commission** – Mr. Leverentz, our delegate to the WSRC, reported that sign-ups for children's programs/camps this summer are way down. Programs are for kids ages 9-12. The borough will put a news item on our website with a link to the WSRC for residents who may not be aware of these opportunities. It was also noted that staffing our pool has been a struggle – few high school/college students seem to be interested. A question arose about doing some financial analysis regarding the attractiveness of lifeguard salaries being competitive with other summer jobs offering higher wages. This could end up being a perennial problem!
7. **Public Comment** – Marsha Everton commented that lifeguarding is still a worthwhile credential for resumes. It can be a transformative experience. The training is good and knowledge of how to pull someone out of a panic situation can be useful in the broader world.
8. **Next Meeting** - June 10, 2021 @ 6 PM (still probably ZOOM. Stay tuned.)
9. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned on a Coleman/Griva motion at 8:49 PM.