

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

MEETING on July 9, 2020 – MINUTES

1. The meeting of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE was called to order at 6:06 PM by Sue Yenchko. In attendance were Kasha Griva, Rebecca Coleman, Gene Koontz, Joe Gargiulo, John Leverentz, Rebecca Yearick, and Cindy Foster, Borough Manager.

2. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

3. **Minutes** of the June 11th, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously by a Griva/Coleman motion.

4. **Old Business** –

- A. **Community Service Project – Neighborhood Review** (continued) – **# 19** *How to pay for improvements?* To begin, while we saw that all but one neighborhood thought that a tax increase could pay for improvements, with the pandemic causing economic dislocation, today, this result would probably skewer in the opposite direction. **#20** *Asking if people are satisfied with the physical appearance of the borough*, responses varied with the neighborhood. A – 66.7% were very satisfied, or satisfied; B - 41.8 % were satisfied, C. 52.2 % were very satisfied or just satisfied; D. 43.5% were satisfied, and E. 75 % were extremely satisfied or just satisfied. **#21** *Most frequently mentioned dissatisfactions with the appearance of the borough* were 1) high grass, litter, weeds; 2) Poor maintenance of many rental properties; 3) Back alleys are a mess; 4) Run-down looking buildings; 5) Lack of property maintenance; 6) Overgrowth of trees in Negley Park; 7) Codes enforcement lacking. Discussion on these topics included: Litter and trash, and “enforcement” concerns showed up a lot. Abandoned vehicles are found in several places (new codes officer is working on this; police should be notified); It is the responsibility of owners to keep areas maintained and clean; More high weeds seem to be found at rental properties. More litter is found at intersections, at lights and around turns. Perhaps our next newsletter can have a “Take pride in Lemoyne” theme? Hosting a Town Hall might be one way of better communicating with residents. Also, communicating with Lemoyners through an electric sign (like the Lower Allen sign on Gettysburg Road) might be helpful in spreading information about meetings, hearings, etc. Cost and placement of such a sign could be problematic. **# 22** *Top 3 problems to address?* 1) Residential building façades, 2) Commercial façade improvements, 3) Streetscape improvements. It was suggested that there should be some way the borough recognizes those who have made façade improvements. Question whether CDBG funds could be used for residential improvements? Enforcing our codes could play a big part in making property owners aware of needing to make improvements. **#23** *Paying for improvements?* 3 Neighborhoods (A,B,C) said increase in taxes, and D and E said borough should pay.
- B. **Aesthetic Overlay** - Third Street Possibilities – Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, with no face to face meetings, a small gathering of Third St. business owners will not be held until at least August or September.
- C. **Walk at Negley Park - June 23 – Findings/Work Completed** – A complete listing of all notations made during the walk at the park was distributed. The Maintenance Department has already addressed approx. 1/3 of the suggestions. The Shade Tree Commission will meet to consider the recommendations regarding the removal of certain trees which are currently blocking the view. John Leverence volunteered to fill the vacancy on that Commission. Council needs to approve his appointment. Joe Gargiulo suggested adding time frames to all the recommendations and the upcoming Open Space Master Plan will also help with chronological order of upgrades. Gene Koontz suggested a similar walk around all of Lemoyne’s Parks. A convenient time for this will be coordinated through Ms. Foster’s office. Ms. Griva mentioned taking note of the lack of air flow through the playground area.
- D. **Movie Night – Loose Ends?** – Discussion revolved around the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases and that school reopening plans were not yet settled. The suggestion to “err on the side of caution” was agreed upon so there will be no movie night this year. Hopefully we can reinstitute Movie Night next year.

5. **New Business**

- A. **Fireworks** – The initiative from the PA Municipal League to rescind the New Fireworks Law, or at least grant the option for ALL municipalities to decide what would be legal use of fireworks going forward, was

discussed. It was noted that there has been a continuing shooting off of substantial fireworks for weeks before and after the Fourth of July by individuals. There was at least one dumpster fire too. Memorial Park had loads of firework debris that needed to be cleaned up. A list of incidents should be compiled and this item should be added to the next work session of Council for discussion as per a Griva/Coleman motion. Information from the WSRPD will also be requested.

6. Public Comment There was no additional comment.

7. Next Meeting – (There will be no August meeting.) **September 10, 2020 @ 6 PM (could be in the Community Room or still possibly by ZOOM. Stay tuned.)**

8. Adjournment – 8:19 PM