

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

MEETING on February 13, 2020 – MINUTES

1. The meeting of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE was called to order at 6:12 PM by Sue Yenchko. In attendance were Kasha Griva, Rebecca Coleman, Rick Stark, Bob Huggler, John Leverentz, Judy McAlister, Rebecca Yearick, Delina Zook and Cindy Foster, Borough Manager.

2. **Public Comment** – Rick Stark mentioned 3 items of interest: 1) Asked about where the boundaries are to Negley Park? Are they all the way down the hill to the railroad tracks? 2) Regarding the Lemoyne Mural, Mr. Stark noted that to accomplish such a project there must be one person who spearheads the project and many who help/volunteer to get it accomplished. This applies to any (future) project in the borough. 3) Many small signs on wire bases keep cropping up around the borough (got junk?, we buy houses, staffing needed) and they are **not approved** in our sign ordinance and also should not be attached to telephone poles. He strongly suggested that the maintenance department remove any such signs whenever they see them.

John Leverentz said that he'd like to discuss the trees in Negley Park so will wait for item C. under Old Business.

3. **Minutes** of the January 9, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously by a Griva/Coleman motion.

4. Old Business –

A. **Community Survey Project** – Discussion centered around the priorities regarding “Neighborhood” which FieldGoals.US broke the data down for us to parse.

- Neighborhoods A, C and D (**see attached map**) had the most replies from the 60-69 age range. B had most replies in the 30-39 age range. And E had most replies in the 50-59 age range.
- Most repliers were home owners and lived here full time.
- Most responses came from neighborhoods B (34%) and C (35%)
- **Features** making Lemoyne a “good place to live” – **Housing types/price ranges...** A-66% (Very important); B-34%, C-32%, D-43%, E-62% (important); **Public Safety...**(Extremely and Very important) A-81%, B-75%, C-73.9%, D-78.3%, E-87.5%; **Neighborhood feeling...** (Very important) A-59%, B-52%, C-47.8%, D-47.8%, E-25%; **Availability of Parks, green space and playgrounds...** (Very important)A-33.3%, B-40.7%, C-42.4%, D-43.5%, E-0% **Proximity to services and location...**(Extremely and Very Important) A-97%, B-92%, C-94%, D-91%, E-99% **Walkability/Trails and Connections...**(Extremely and Very important) A-82%, B-89%, C-86%, D-86%, E-99%; **Access to public transportation...**(Not very important) A-43%, D-48%, E-62%; (Very important)B-28.6%, C-28.3%; **Public and Private Schools...**(Extremely and Very important)A-72%, B-78%, C-75%, D-60%, E-74%; **Health and wellness services/facilities...**(Important) A-38%, B-26.4%, C-33.7%, D-30.4%, E-37.5%; Arts and Culture...(Important) A-38.1%, B-46.2%, C-27.2%, D-39.1%, E-25%
- **Issues to better the neighborhoods:** Make rental properties keep up maintenance, Do more about trash at houses and along streets, Update and improve parks, Preserve green space, Encourage more single family houses. Fewer rentals, , Address blighted buildings/areas, Stop the drug trade/use, Look into “reserved” parking for residents, Enforce codes on ALL properties, Have neighborhood gatherings and block parties, Have resident meeting places/spaces, Have get-together activities, Improve safety for pedestrians/bicyclists, Do something about traffic congestion, Provide opportunities to meet fire and police persons, Have police walking patrols, “Soften” Market St. and Third Street.

B. **Aesthetic Overlay** - The next step needed is to meet with a small contingent of business owners along Third Street to ascertain their interest in upgrading that business district in Lemoyne. Contacts are being made.

C. **Tree Control at Negley Park** – Mr. Leverentz noted that the borough’s maintenance department has cut some of the trees and bushes in Negley Park and it already opens up parts of the view. While the

borough planted some trees in the park years ago, they need to be evaluated as to whether they should be removed. The committee will do a walk-through in March to look at problem areas.

- D. Meeting with Community Non-Profits (N-P) in Lemoyne** - The committee needs to clarify the purpose and goals of the prospective gathering . Ms. Yearick will merge the several lists that are around. Suggestions were made to put the list and links to those N-P's in the borough newsletter to let people know what services are available.
- E. Lemoyne Youth Initiative** – Ms. Griva was in touch with Mrs. Trevino at Washington Heights School to get a better picture of what some families situations/needs might be. Mr. Leverentz drafted a survey about facilities in parks for the elementary school. He and Ms. Griva will continue to bring suggestions to the committee for discussion.

5. New Business

- A. Mural Maintenance** – A suggestion was made at the last council meeting by Mr. Beene to see if we could get permission to uplight the mural. Discussion followed that PennDOT has regulations about lighting signs and the question was, “would they allow it on our mural?” Regarding funding, we might be able to apply for a visitor's bureau grant to install it. A suggestion was made to confer with Andy Rebuck (Lamar) about what's involved with sign lighting and Ms. Yenchko will follow through with that contact. She will also contact PennDOT to discuss possibilities.
- B. School Playground Equipment?** - Question arose about whether the borough could help with getting playground equipment for the Washington Heights School. Discussion centered on whether or not that was the responsibility of the school district. That's the first place that should be contacted.
- C. Zoning Hearing Board?** – Question arose whether the ZHB existed due to state law and could Council just do that function? It is believed that it has to be a separate body so that appeals could come to Council if there were any. Ms. Foster will investigate and let us know at the next meeting..

6. Public Comment There was no additional comment.

7. Next Meeting – March 12, 2020 @ 6 PM

10. Adjournment – 8:29 PM