

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – OCTOBER 14, 2019**

---

**Members:** Linda Martin, Chairperson, Greg Zimmerman, Ricky Ressler

**Attendees:** Linda Martin, Ricky Ressler, Greg Zimmerman, Sue Rowe, Ralph Mowen, Tracy Roseberry, Kelly Withum, Jim Summers, Joanne Ressler, Brenda Perrotti, Rachel Irby

The Community Services Committee met on September 23, 2019 and discussed the following:

### **Action Items:**

1. The Committee agreed to move the following from a Discussion Item to an Action Item. Kelly Withum of Mainspring Ephrata presented a proposed name change for the Bike Park. The current official name is Heatherwood Park. One of the High School committee members suggested the Ephrata Bike Park. The Mainspring of Ephrata Board of Directors agreed to the name change. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the proposed name change from Heatherwook Park to the Ephrata Bike Park at Heatherwood at their October 14, 2019 meeting.
2. The Committee agreed to move the following from a Discussion Item to an Action Item. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony held on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> for the opening of the bike park. Mainspring of Ephrata requested (Highway Committee) that Lemon Street be closed for the ceremony and celebration. Additionally, they are requesting permission to have food trucks on a public road (Lemon Street). The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve Mainspring of Ephrata's request at their October 14, 2019 meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed a request presented by Kelly Withum of Mainspring of Ephrata to use the Veterans Plaza and Linear Trail to hold a Luminary Tribute. The Event is scheduled for Monday, November 11, 2019 (Veteran's Day) from approximately 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Mainspring of Ephrata will submit a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as an additional insured and will complete an Incident Support Plan with the Chief of Police. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the request at their October 14, 2019 meeting.

### **Discussion Items:**

1. Visitors Joanne Ressler, Brenda Perrotti, and Rachel Irby reviewed past discussions about the possibility of a dog park for Ephrata Borough. The first thing they did was to find out the degree of interest within the community. The one popular event they attended to discuss the possibility of a dog park was the Annual Dog Swim held at the Ephrata Community Pool. They met with a small group of people and obtained signatures in favor of the park. They then put a sheet in a dog groomer's business and obtained pages of signatures in favor it. In total, 193 signatures were obtained, both in and out of Borough residents. They have names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. The next step is to secure a location, get Council approval, and decide how much community support and financial help Council wants. The two (2) locations that are being considered the most are the Wenger Farm and the Haller Property. Of those locations, the Haller Property is the preferred location. Linda

Martin stated that the project is in the 2020 Capital Budget. She further explained that there is a preliminary budget meeting scheduled for October 23, 2019, but that it's very early on in the process and that the project cannot move forward until the 2020 Budget & Program of Services is voted on in December. It was noted that this is an election year and that the budget could be re-opened. The group/committee is ready to go. They are ready to contact businesses for donations and to see what grants may be available. They are just waiting for the go ahead.

2. Jim Summers, Executive Director of the Ephrata Recreation Center, reviewed pool numbers for the 2019 season. Jim stated that Borough Council will need to decide their philosophy of operating the pool for the 2020 season as it relates to attendance and revenue. Should it remain a Community Pool? Should it become a Member Only or a Members Only & guests? Should it be Ephrata or EASD only? Linda Martin stated that there is a lot to discuss and make decisions on. Discussions will begin again in January. Linda wants to invite people back who had concerns and suggestions in the past.