

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – MARCH 13, 2023

Members: Barr, Chairman; Martin, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; Zimmerman, Alternate; Rineer, Staff

Attendees: Committee: Barr, Chairman; Martin, Vice Chairman; Zimmerman, Alternate
Council: Reinhold, Council President
Staff: Rineer; Harris, Borough Manager
Guests: Lisa Willwerth, Jim Summers, Mike Cohick, Kim Stonebreaker

The Community Services Committee met on February 27, 2023, at 4:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Rineer provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of Borough business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Committee Chair Barr asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Mr. Rineer requested to add a request from Troop 38 to sell Easter flowers at Whistle Stop Plaza from April 7 through 9, 2023, as an Action Item. Mr. Barr asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as amended. Ms. Martin moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded to approve the amended meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed Bid Number 23-1 to E.W. Reiff Lawn Care, Inc., for turf maintenance services. E.W. Reiff Lawn Care, Inc.'s bid amount was \$60,000 for the 2023 mowing season; \$63,000 for the 2024 mowing season; and, \$66,000 for the 2025 mowing season. The 2024 and 2025 mowing seasons are optional and at the discretion of Borough Staff upon satisfactory performance each year. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council award Bid Number 23-1 to E.W. Reiff Lawn Care, Inc.
2. Jim Summers from the Ephrata Recreation Center, presented the Committee with operation dates of the community pool opening Saturday, May 27th and closing Sunday, August 27th. He stated that this year there was a wage increase for the pool employees. Ms. Martin asked Mr. Summers if he is recommending a 5% increase for pool membership; in which, Mr. Summers advised he is. The Committee was also in favor of the proposed increases. The Committee was in favor of increasing day passes by \$1 for all day passes.
3. Ephrata Unleashed Dog Park Committee is requesting to hold the 2nd Annual K9 Eggstravaganza Event. The event would take place on April 1, 2023. The event would take place within the fenced-in area of the Dog Park and dogs would remain leashed for the event. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the Ephrata Unleashed K9 Eggstravaganza Event at the Dog Park.
4. Mainspring of Ephrata requested to use the WERT trail and Winters Memorial to place luminaries and flags on November 11, 2023, for Veterans Day. Students from the Fulton Elementary School will place American flags at the Winter's Memorial. The Committee will recommend Borough Council grant the

request to place luminaries and flags along the WERT trail and Winters Memorial for a Veterans Day Event subject to the receipt of a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as an additional insured. This item will appear on the Consent Agenda.

5. Reliance Environmental submitted a request to install two groundwater monitoring wells on two different Borough-owned properties. There had been an accidental release of chemicals over several years into the ground at 17 East Queen Street, a commercial dry cleaner. Reliance Environmental is requesting to place the wells at Redcay Park and at the basketball court along East Queen Street. Well abandonment completion will be submitted at the conclusion of the project. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the request to place two monitoring wells on Borough owned parks.
6. The Committee reviewed a request to hold a Community Food Truck Event at the Lincoln Heights playground. The food truck would be parked on Lincoln Heights Avenue adjacent to the park. This would be the second year for the event. The event would take place on May 17, 2023. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council grant the request for the Food Truck Event to take place at the Lincoln Heights playground subject to placement of proper traffic control devices.
7. A request was made by American Legion to host a Community Easter Egg Hunt on Borough-owned property between the American Legion's parking lot and Vine Street. The event would take place on Friday, April 7, 2023, between the hours of 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM. In the past, the Legion has hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on their property along Cocalico Street which has an embankment that causes the eggs to roll towards the street. The Legion feels that hosting the event on the Borough's property would be a safer alternative for the children. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the American Legion's Easter Egg Hunt request.
8. Kim Stonebraker, a representative from Impact Troop 38, requested the use of the Whistle Stop Plaza for the Troop to sell Easter flowers on April 7, 8 and 9 of 2023. Ms. Stonebraker stated that the Troop would set up in the Plaza area and would not interfere with traffic. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council grant the request to hold the flower sale at Whistle Stop Plaza subject to the receipt of a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as an additional insured.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee reviewed the guidelines for the Cultural Arts Grant. The Committee questioned whether there is follow up to confirm that the recipients contribute their required 50% match of the grant. Staff reviewed the applications and confirmed the applicants note their contribution on the submitted applications for the project which is over 50% of the grant request.
2. The Committee discussed the 4th Quarter 2022 Budget Report. There were no concerns.
3. Mr. Rineer provided an update on the Dog Park. Mr. Rineer advised the Dog Park is now open to the public; however, the benches have not yet been installed by Public Works. Mr. Rineer commented that a few glitches have come up since the opening of the Dog Park which are being addressed. Mr. Rineer further advised he will be meeting with the Ephrata Unleashed Dog Park Committee on March 1, 2023, to address concerns that the Committee may have.

Old Business Items:

1. Ms. Martin advised she would like to discuss the possibility of a tree bank to plant evergreen trees to use for future Christmas trees for the Annual Downtown Tree Lighting Event.