

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – MAY 8, 2023

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

Attendees: Committee: Martin, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member
Council: None
Staff: Rineer; Harris, Borough Manager
Guests: Lori Ann Kobzina, Deidre Heck, Beckie Beazley, Dave Beazley, Linda Brown, Gary Sensnig, Sue Hertzog, Ken Blessing, Melissa Zook, Tim Hegeman, Lisa Jean Hoefner, Mary Orndorff

The Community Services Committee met on April 24 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 Vice Chair Martin asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Ms. Martin asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Ressler moved and Ms. Martin seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items:

1. A request was made by Lori Ann Kobzina, a member of the Ephrata Unleashed Dog Park Committee, to install four shade structures in the dog park. Ms. Kobzina stated the Dog Park Committee has been exploring different options for shade structures at the dog park. She stated that building a pavilion type structure would be too expensive and their Committee settled on a permanent 14' x 14' umbrella. Ms. Kobzina stated that the Committee has the funds to pay for the structures and they are currently searching for a contractor to install the structures. Ms. Martin and Mr. Ressler wanted to know what the wind uplift rating was for the structures. Ms. Kobzina stated that they are rated for wind gusts of up to 85 MPH. Mr. Ressler asked about the maintenance of the structure. Ms. Kobzina stated the fabric would be taken off over the cooler months and re-installed over the summer months. The material has a 10-year life expectancy. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the request.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee discussed the first quarter budget report. There were no concerns.
2. There was a discussion about Melissa Zook's request to use the Haller property as a nature based educational facility. Mr. Rineer gave a brief update on building code-related issues. The Committee would like to have further discussions on this proposal at the next Committee meeting. Ms. Zook was going to gather more information about the day care facility and Ms. Harris was going to gather information on a feasibility study.

3. Mr. Rineer gave an update for the proposed Christmas tree bank. He stated that the Shade Tree Commission would be interested in gathering some ideas for the tree bank and he will present them to the Committee once they are done.
4. There was a discussion about pickleball courts in the Borough. Linda Brown stated that pickleball is a growing sport and there is a demand for locations to play it. She stated that she has a list of over 600 people who would be interested in pickleball courts being constructed in the Borough. Sue Hertzog, a resident of the Brickyard asked about the possibility of changing the existing tennis courts in the Brickyard Park to pickleball courts since the existing courts are seldom used. The Committee asked Ms. Harris to look into what would be involved in the conversion. Ms. Harris/Staff will research to identify possible locations and costs involved with building pickleball courts; six (6) is the desired number. The pickleball discussion will remain on the agenda as more information is available.