

ARTS, RECREATION, & ENTERTAINMENT SUBCOMMITTEE



Greenville, Pa
COMMUNITY VISION TASK FORCE

**ARTS, RECREATION, & ENTERTAINMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 31ST, 2018 | 6:30PM | PADRONES PIZZA AND PUB**

PRESENT: Ben Beck, Jennifer Ribley, Joe Ribley, Anne Butcher, Kent Taylor, Terri Deist, Stephanie Wilson

ABSENT: Catherine Richardson, Samantha Iliff

OLD BUSINESS:

2004 Comprehensive Plan Analysis

There was brief discussion on how the previous plan didn't significantly address the need for a focus on youth activities. There was an underlying impression that Greenville was to be a retirement or senior community. Our demographics show a fairly even generational dispersion that should be considered.

Arts

Greenville has a surprising number of things to offer in the realm of the arts: Greenville Symphony Orchestra (GSO), Greenville Area Community Theater (GACT), Penn-Ohio Young Actors Playhouse (POYAP), Thiel College Con Spirito Series, Thiel College Weyers Gallery, Sans MOCO Gallery & Atelier.

The group talked about attendance and participation in the arts through the groups mentioned above. Many are finding attendance and participation is becoming more and more difficult. Although there are many factors that play into the decrease in activity, it was suggested that marketing and advertising may be major contributors to the problem. Advertising and Marketing costs can often be overlooked or cut with tight budgets. It was suggested that there may be a way for these groups to work collaboratively in cooperative advertising. There may be a shift happening among the board of directors of these groups that will offer a current approach to capturing audiences again. There was also some discussion on who the Business – Organization cooperation and support can be improved upon.

The amphitheater is an asset that the group considers to be widely underutilized. It was added that there is little that would need to be done to make it more venue viable including installing a canvas canopy over both the seating and stage area. The electricity recently got an upgrade to handle the amps needed for concerts.

Recreation

Likewise, Greenville has a foundation of organizations dedicated to recreation improvements and investments such as: Mercer County Trails Association, Shenango River Watchers, Community

Recreation of Northern Mercer County (formerly the Pool Committee), Carried Away Outfitters/Recreation, as well as the many Sports Associations. These organizations and institutions are incredibly important since the Greenville Borough is in the continued process of “right-sizing” the government to match the ever declining revenue and local government funded or subsidized recreation is no longer a feasible approach.

General Youth Recreation is, however, lacking. With the loss of the Rec Center, the community has the perception that there is nothing for the youth in the area. Local Sports Associations are seeing a decline in sign-ups. There is also virtually no winter sports!

Again, there are many factors at play. The group finds it important to hear from representatives of these Associations in order to paint a better picture of the hurdles that they are facing. It was discussed that a joint Youth Recreation organization may make it easier (this begs the question as to why GALSA was dismantled). It was suggested that maybe the Chamber of Commerce could rent out office space for this joint organization.

There was brief discussion on the underutilized riverfront and trail-facing properties.

Entertainment

There was brief discussion about encouraging open mic nights around town. It was also mentioned that restaurants and dining are a piece of the entertainment and cultural puzzle. It was suggested that a thriving and diverse hospital and medical community, as well as academic community, spur on a more diverse food scene.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, August 28th, 2018, 7:30 PM at Fresh Grounds Coffeehouse. Committee members have been tasked with inviting representatives from the following group to the next meeting.

POYAP (Jennifer Ferguson) & Senior Center – Stephanie Wilson
Shenango River Watchers, MCTA, & Carried Away, GACT – Ben Beck
Men & Women’s Softball, Thiel College (Than Oo) – Jennifer & Joe Ribley
GSO – Anne Butcher

Committee members are asked to submit questions for representatives. Each representative will be given a 10(max) time slot to address the group.

Adjourned at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Ribley, Ben Beck