

# **Community Center Commission**

**8 Simpson Street**

**Newtown, CT 06470**

**These minutes are subject to approval by the Community Center Commission**

The Community Center Commission held a special meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 8 Simpson Street Newtown, CT at 6:30pm.

Present: Kinga Walsh, Doria Linnetz, Jordana Bloom, Cheyanne Wirtz, Fred Taylor, Bill Manfredonia, Sadie Gureasko-Moore and Matt Ariniello

Absent: Jeff Tousignant, Filippo Formica and Alesha Rizwana

Ms Walsh opened the meeting at 6:35 with a salute to the flag.

Ms Bloom moved to accept the minutes of May 17<sup>th</sup> with Ms Wirtz 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved

Ms Walsh moved to accept the minutes of June 21<sup>st</sup> with Ms Wirtz 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved

Discussion on patio and outdoor splashpad – design, staffing, payment. Extensive discussion on procedure and timeline. Discussion on progress and lack of progress. Following the as built drawings to connect with electrical for patio lighting, came up empty. Discussion on how to get electricity out to the patio without ripping up the multipurpose flooring. Discussion on the extra costs due to value engineering that was done in the building process.

Mr Ariniello was pleased to announce that membership did not dip for the summer as much as last year. The Community Center participated in the all access pass again this summer. During the shut down last week the algae was removed and the grout resealed on the pool deck. This will need to be done every 3-5 years. Discussion on a timed lock for the outside bathroom once it is open again. Mr Ariniello is looking to hire aquatic staffing for the fall to replace the college students returning to school. A bookkeeper has been hired starting mid September. An extensive director's report and financial statement is attached.

Discussion on tents for the patio versus sun shade. Placement of the storage building and splash pad was discussed. Mr Ariniello stated he would like to have the electricity run to the storage building. He would also like to have a sun shade by the outdoor splash pad to protect the users.

Patio usage was discussed – permits, safety, grills, inclement weather, timing, bathroom access, capacity, indoor/outdoor, kitchen access and visibility of guests.

Ms Wirtz moved to accept the final draft of the member letter with Mr Manfredonia 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion approved (letter attached)

Ms Linnetz moved to increase FY2023 accounts: part time salaries, contractual services and program supplies equal to the enrichment grant funds from CT State Department of Education. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr Manfredonia. Approved

Strategic Sub Committee meeting will be set coordinating with Mr Tousignant. They plan on meeting before the September meeting of the full Commission.

Ms Linnetz moved to adjourn the meeting with Ms Wirtz 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms Walsh adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

LeReine Frampton, temporary clerk

Dear Member:

"Thank you" encompasses a small but heartfelt portion of our appreciation for your continued support of the Newtown Community Center. Since our doors opened in 2019, but especially over the past year or so, the Newtown Community Center's staff has worked tirelessly to provide a positive experience to all who enter and use the Center every day. Given the increase in overall facility usage and memberships, we believe we are succeeding in creating a Center that encompasses the mission of supporting our community. The Center's mission, "*...a multi-generational hub that enhances our community by promoting social interaction, health and wellness, creative opportunities, and personal growth*" allows us to offer users of all ages many programming, event, and facility options.

Since 2019, the Newtown Community Center has proudly:

- Provided a clean and safe hub for the community to gather during the pandemic and provided pandemic-related programming and childcare
- Offered after-school and school-break child-care options to give parents increased support and schedule flexibility
- Enhanced the user experience through facility updates including upgrades to our locker rooms, multi-purpose room, WIFI improvements, handicap buttons for our Locker rooms and bathrooms and the soon-to-be-completed exterior, rear patio to host outdoor events
- Increased Water Aerobics classes to support the additional demand
- Purchased an aquatic wheelchair to help increase pool access for handicapped individuals
- Added Outdoor programming to our health and wellness opportunities
- Continue to provide youth and adult options for art programming
- Partnered with the Commission on Aging to bring additional programming for seniors in our community

This coming fall we are excited to announce the opening of our outdoor patio. This space will allow for additional outdoor programming, event space and meeting space.

Since our opening, the Newtown Community Center has been committed to being available to all, regardless of their ability to pay. We will continue our financial assistance programs to support those who face economic, medical, or social challenges.

We are honored to serve our community and look forward to seeing you and your families at the Center throughout the year ahead. We wish you and your family continued good health.

Thank you again for your continued support!

Matt Ariniello

Community Center Director

Kinga Walsh

Community Center Commission Chair

## **Directors Report**

**8.27.22**

### **Membership**

Membership units dipped last month by about 20 units and mostly family units. I attribute this to seasonal membership cancellations due to summer. Our member count to date stands at 5,920. While the difference in revenue from the previous month was -\$183.00 we saw an increase in day pass fees.

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

Last week we shut down for annual maintenance and repairs. I am very happy with the projects that were completed. One of our major projects was the sealing of the pool deck, due to algae issues. The cost of this project was 15K. We also had an opportunity to scrub the pool, clean calcium deposits from the tiles and do much needed repairs to pool stairs, railings and spray features. The Multipurpose room and Activity Rooms received a much needed coat of paint after a busy year. Final touches on the Locker Rooms were performed, final cost estimates around \$68,000.00 for all three locker rooms. We are still awaiting two frosted handicap shower doors but the rest of the locker room project has been completed. Construction has started on our Activity room bathroom. The mason has drilled the holes for the toilet and the pump and we are awaiting the plumber to finish the fixtures by the end of next week. During this week we were able to complete one of our ARPA fund projects which was the handicap access buttons for the Locker Room. All Locker rooms are now equipped with handicap buttons. Our emergency light project was also completed in spaces we cannot normally access while occupied. I want to Thank all the staff that came in to assist with the small projects (ie. cleaning closets, organizing, or wiping lockers), your work did not go unnoticed.

The facilities manager is putting the final touches on the outdoor bathroom with the hopes of opening after Labor Day.

The patio project kicked off last week, the first phases include the work of DPW to help grade the area. We are working on some electrical issues but hope to have them solved by the middle of the week.

Pavers and material are expected to be delivered late next week. Kinga and I continue to work and investigate permanent tent/structure options for the patio. We hope to have an event mid/late october opening the patio to the community.

### **Staffing**

In July we had a departure of our bookkeeper who went to take on a role back in the medical field and pursue higher education. We have hired a new part time bookkeeper who will begin on September 13th.

We still have not filled for this Aquatics Director position at this point but have conducted interviews.

## **Directors Report**

**8.27.22**

We have had a large turnover of swim instructors due to high school graduation and we are looking to fill some key spots. Last week we held a WSI training to bring some new staff on board. We are still currently in need of daytime guards to work shifts between 8 am-4 pm daily, any interested candidates can contact me directly.

### **Summer Camp**

We closed out our most successful summer season yet. This summer we hosted nearly 1,410 children in our summer programs. With assistance from the Friends of the Newtown Community Center, the Newtown Fund and the State Department of Education we were able to give out nearly \$9,000.00 in summer camp scholarships. The summer enrichment grant from the State department of Education allowed for the purchase of a 20x40 tent, outdoor gaga pit and allowed us to provide 15 onsite field trips through the course of the summer. The grant allowed for a full time STEAM coordinator to add enrichment opportunities to summer programming. Another new addition this year was offering Friday Pizza Lunch and Ice Cream wednesdays which generated not only extra revenue but also delivered many smiles. Summer camp revenue including before and after care generated around \$241,450.00 this summer.

Race for Chase finale was held on August 6th at Camp Sloper in Southington. 42 children from our site competed and over 500 children from around CT. We held a family picnic and rally this year in the multipurpose room honoring all over triathletes and coaches. Thank You to the CMAK Foundation for this generous grant. We are on a sliding scale grant with the CMAK foundation and will need to help subsidize the program in the future to help with sustainability.

<https://www.fox61.com/article/news/local/race4chase-triathlon-hundreds-of-kids-honor-sandy-hook-victim/520-b9b95c5d-ba38-4b46-8110-1aa1c3ceb3b5>

Thank You to the Women Involved in Newtown and Kinga Walsh for helping prepare nearly 60 backpacks for Newtown students in need. The Community worked with both social services and the school district to identify families in need.

### **Grant Updates**

We are very grateful for the generous grant by the Cultural Arts Commission to the Friends of the Newtown Community Center in supporting a display case to showcase our art programming. The display case is currently in the lobby and will be filled in the coming weeks.

The FONCC and I are working on some grants due in September. We are looking to get the full payout of around \$47,000 from the CSDE in September. We are awaiting the final approval from the BOS and LC on the refund from the soffit replacement (\$49,500).

### **Programming**

Fall registration opened today and fall programming begins on September 12th. We are excited to introduce some new programming as well as bring back some favorites. The homeschool program will return this fall and registration will begin 9/2.

**Directors Report**  
**8.27.22**

The Kids Club Afterschool program begins this week and we are looking at hosting around 52 children in the program weekly. We are in the process of trying to certify another bus/van driver to assist in taking the load off the program coordinator and I.

**ARPA Funding Update**

The Department of Human Services has been awarded \$20,000.00 through ARPA funding to assist with enrichment funding to families in need. These dollars can be used towards Community Center programming (afterschool programs, swim lessons, Our shared van with the Senior Center has been ordered and appears to be about 12 months out. The facilities manager and I will work with the purchasing agent this fall after the patio is completed on the plan for the permanent storage shed.

**Yoga Festival**

The Friends of the Newtown Community Center is bringing back the Newtown Yoga Festival after a covid hiatus. The event will be held on October 15th at the Community Center.

Balance transfer in processed in 13/2021

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| **paid in lump sum beginning of fiscal year*              | \$51,662.66 |
| \$4,305.22 monthly fee + any invoices accrued in the past |             |
|   | \$0.02      |

**\$0.0**



**Newtown Community Center - Special Revenue Fund ESTIMATE**  
**From July 1, 2022 through July 31, 2022**

[illegible]

**Expenditures:**

[illegible]

## Revenues over Expenditures

| Beginning Fund Balance |  |   |   |  |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |
|------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| 3,751,798              |  |   | - |  | - |  |   | - |  | - | - |
| 3,936,415              |  | - | - |  | - |  | - | - |  | - | - |



**Newtown Community Center  
Membership Count – May 2022**

[illegible]