

Newtown Community Center Membership Sub Committee Minutes

Tuesday, July 17th 2018
6:00pm Town Hall South

In Attendance: Mr. Jeff Tousignant, Mr. Bill Manfredonia, Ms. Kinga Walsh, Mr. Matt Ariniello and Ms. Cheyanne Wirtz

Absent: Mr. Ian Hockley, Ms. Sandi Lubin, Mr. Mark Dawley

Meeting began at 6:00 pm

Discussion of previous pro-forma created by Brian Leidlein, it is our understanding that these metrics were based off a 50 meter pool.

Discussion of a finance committee going forward. Ms. Walsh will investigate and bring up at our next meeting.

The committee decided that March 1st would be an ideal date to start selling memberships and will give us a timeline to work with when deciding hiring, programming

Previous subcommittee decided hours based on research, group agreed with the hours and think we can adjust seasonally (summer). Monday- Friday 6 am to 10 pm, Saturday 6 am to 7 pm and 7 am to 6 pm on Sundays. The facility will be open for a total of 104 hours a week. Mr. Ariniello suggested we look at this seasonally especially in the summer.

Discussion of Kids Corner being an option for families as part of a membership package. Mr. Ariniello will do some research of trends and hours of these spaces. The idea of Guest Passes were also discussed and how we could incorporate that into our membership packages. How many per family? Individual?

Mr. Manfredonia wanted clarification of Open Door Policy/ usage viewing area-café. Ms. Wirtz asked if the greenspace/patio will be enclosed and open for everyone and if it will be accessible for people to just walk around the building. Whoever is using the patio will need to check in at the front desk since they will have access to the building. Mr. Ariniello said signage would need to be provided.

Discussion on how will Park and Rec pay to use the location and how will we ensure that people are not running the same programs in our facility. Suggestion for hourly rate vs per participant rate was addressed.

Bill Manfredonia wanted to confirm that the SC utilities will be coming out of there budget, Mr. Ariniello will confirm if there will be a separate meter or will be broken down by square footage.

Ms. Walsh brought up the idea of offering 10% off Park and Rec programs as an incentive for members. Mr. Ariniello will have a discussion with Mrs. Mangold if she would like to incorporate something into our membership package.

Ms. Wirtz mentioned that Delineation of Park and Rec and CC needs to be included in Membership brochure, Mr. Ariniello mentioned in the future of possibly doing a combined brochure with the Senior Center and P & R

Mr. Tousignant brought up that Ridgefield has a separate pool membership and is an avenue we should look into. Mr. Manfredonia also asked about the check in process. Matt wants to look into a one stop process, key tag for locker room and check. This will also save on cost. Matt stated that everyone will be required to sign in whether they are coming for the "Open Door" policy or as part of their membership

Ms. Wirtz mentioned that if people are coming just for a program they won't have access to the locker room. Mr. Ariniello suggested maybe we request that if they are a program member they can use the regular bathrooms or come prepared for a class and make the locker rooms exclusive for just inclusive members

Mr. Ariniello discussed program membership cards for community members to display at the front desk if they were interested in coming in for a program, this will assist with ensuring members are registered for programs and security of the facility.

Mr. Tousignant stated that we need to identify programs before we discuss program membership/ Full option. Ms. Wirtz suggested that art classes be specialized prices.

Ms. Walsh states that there needs to be a pool only option and that there was feedback in the past. Ms. Walsh suggested maybe partial memberships. Mr. Ariniello and Mr. Tousignant thought that the more we create selective memberships that it will hurt us financially in the long run.

Discussion of room rentals (having resident, non-resident and non profit rates) were discussed but, were decided to be discussed after we design membership packages.

It was decided that Memberships should include a non resident and resident fees. Prior to signing up for membership must show ID and proof of residency

Mr. Ariniello discussed Group Corporate Discounts- (Police, Fire military, clergy, veteran) and outreach for local businesses, teachers, municipal employees etc. Committee agreed that this needs to be an option.

Mr. Tousignant pointed out significant fee for resident and non resident comparatively to Ridgefield and Mr. Ariniello mentioned there needs to be a benefit to living in Newtown and getting resident fee

Nothing should fall under resident threshold except for disabled, military veteran

Education that the Senior Center membership does not include the Community Center. Mr. Manfredonia mentioned that we should invite the Senior Center Director to our next meeting. Mr. Ariniello said he will extend the invitation.

Mr. Manfredonia suggested that we should have two Billing options- Annual vs Bank Draft (EFT). Mr. Ariniello agreed and that there may be some special circumstances for college memberships over the summer and on breaks.

The next meeting will take place on August 28th at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Ariniello Community Center Director