

**Newtown Community Center Committee**

**March 19, 2019 6:30 pm Town Hall South**

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE**

Ms Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Present –Kinga Walsh, Cheyenne Wirtz, Fred Taylor, Doria Linnetz , Nancy Doniger , Bill Manfredonia

Absent –Brian Hartgraves, Jeff Tousignant

Also Present: Matt Ariniello, Filippo Formica, Kristen Rebelo Aquatics Director and one member of the public

No public participation

**Ms Doniger moved to accept the minutes of the March 5th meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr Taylor - approved**

Ms Rebelo, the newly hired Aquatics Director was introduced to the committee. Ms Rebelo gave an overview of her background. She also gave an overview of her planned approach to making the aquatics program a success. Ms Rebelo has already begun scheduling swimming lessons, and both value added activities and member included activities. She is planning multi levels of intensity in water exercises. Ms Rebelo is working with Ms Cebry to coordinate the timing of programs.

**Student Report**

Mr Formica submitted suggestions for programs and events. He gathered both his own ideas and those of other Middle School students for this submission. He explained to the board what some of the events entailed. Mr Formica also related the information to events and programs he has attended at other facilities. Mr Ariniello was quite excited to have the suggestions match some of the events and programs already being planned by his new staff. He is looking forward to being able to incorporate more of the suggestions in their planning.

**Director's Report – attached**

Steel for dividing walls is coming. The estimated date for the c/o is June 26<sup>th</sup>. This will enable staff to enter the building and prepare for the opening. Estimated opening mid July.

Discussion on water sources for pool and other center needs. Mr Ariniello commented that he is impressed with the quality of workmanship in the new center.

Mr Ariniello discussed the plaque of thanks to the volunteers. He will contact the members of the committees involved to see if they wish to have their name included on the plaque.

## **Membership**

Extensive discussion on membership pricing, discounts that have been requested by numerous groups and the intent of the gift by GE to have the center accessible to all.

## **Presentation**

There was an extensive review of the draft of the presentation to be submitted to the BOS at the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Presentation is an overview of the project so far as well as the goals to be accomplished. The presentation includes forecasted revenue as well as operating expenses. Operational expenses were worked on in conjunction with Mr Tait. Revenue is based on other facilities experiences with membership percentages and growth. Membership fees were also done through comparison and are deeply discounted in comparison to other facilities.

Ms Walsh has requested that members review the presentation for corrections, spelling and grammar errors and clarification needs. Please send all comments to Mr Ariniello.

**Ms Wirtz moved to adjourn with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms Doniger - approved**

Ms Walsh adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
LeReine Frampton



## **Directors Report**

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### **Grant Update**

This past week we received \$33,500.00 in Grants. We were awarded a \$15,000 grant to begin the Community Café as well as \$11,000.00 from the Newtown Sandy Hook Community Foundation for the Playmakers Grant and \$7,500.00 to support the Electric changing table. Melissa and Doug has announced that not only will they be supporting our kid friendly spaces with furniture and supplies, they will be making a donation annually to stock our shelves and areas. The Melissa and Doug design team has asked for specs to help design those spaces with appropriate materials.

### **Marketing Update**

Our temporary website will be live today or tomorrow. The Marketing team will be presenting their marketing plan later this week and will share it with you once it is presented.

### **Friends of Newtown Community Center Update**

This past week the first meeting of the Friends of took place. Joanne Davis was named Chairman, Matt Allred Treasurer and Debbie Bresnan Secretary. We have received our tax identification number from the IRS and will be putting together our bylaws, conflict of interest policy and starting our bank account in the coming weeks.

### **Programming Update**

Last week, I attended a Meet and Greet with the Senior Center where I was able to introduce myself and get to know what programs are working and discuss what they would like to see in the new Center and how to enhance their current offerings. I will be attending the COA meeting and meeting with Judy Thomas on Wednesday to discuss and align Senior Center programming with Community Center programming.

I am continuing to meet with instructors to line them up for the Member Value Added classes so a definite schedule can be set. I have started to also put together six weeks of Summer Camps that include a dance camp, pirate camp, Lego camp, a cooking camp and a summer sampler of art activities camp. Each camp will be one week with different age ranges. Matt and I will be meeting with Kim Whitmore regarding Camp Collin which will also be held this summer.

This week, I am meeting with two local knitting groups to discuss a fiber arts program as well as meeting with a local artist on a splatter art activity.