

Community Center Committee Minutes

December 10, 2019

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE

Present: Kinga Walsh, Nancy Doniger, Bill Manfredonia, Doria Linnetz, Kevin Byrne, Fred Taylor, Jeff Tousignant, Filippo Formica

Also Present: Matt Ariniello

Absent: Brian Hargraves, Cheyanne Wirtz, Olivia Deschenes, Alexis Underwood

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm

There was no public.

Ms Walsh informed the committee that Ms Underwood resigned from the committee due to sports schedule conflict.

Mr Manfredonia moved to accept the October minutes 2nd by Ms Doniger – approved

Ms Doniger moved to accept the November minutes 2nd by Mr Manfredonia - approved

Directors Report

Post Construction update: Since our last meeting we have made some progress on outstanding issues. Our new showerheads have been installed in the locker room, most of our site work has been cleared and the town has begun creating a rear entrance for deliveries ahead of paving. Grading was started this week and should be finished by the end of next week. Most of our pool issues have been resolved and we are awaiting our final inspection from Weston and Sampson (the original designer). A floor replacement has been chosen for the Multi-purpose room and we are in the process of nailing down a date to do that work. A dark grey tile will replace the yellow tile in the replacement. We will pay for the polish of the floor since that was not included in the original job. We are continuing to work on the water issue as we are still working with the engineer and the PBSC Committee. I have ordered the signage requested by the Fairfield Hills Authority, which should be installed in the next two weeks. Our acoustical panels are in and will be installed (Health and Wellness Rooms, Activity Rooms and Senior Center) in the next few weeks as well as our window coverings.

There was a lengthy discussion on the frustrations and amount of time Mr Ariniello and Center custodian are having to spend on punch list items that are not being corrected. Some of these are safety issues and months later have still not been addressed. Ms Walsh and Mr Ariniello attend the Building and Site meetings but are not making any headway. Ms Walsh is concerned about the negative perceptions of the Center and the impact of operations overall.

Staffing update: The center will be adding a weekend custodian on both Saturday and Sunday to assist with party setup and weekend maintenance issues. We have two Front Desk Shifts opening in the New Year as one of our staff has found full time employment and lastly, our marketing assistant has taken a full time marketing job in Stamford and will be doing subcontracting work for us for the time being. Ms Walsh suggested perhaps the town would benefit from a marketing assistant and we could share the employee. Over the past three weeks we have hired 4 new lifeguards and 2 new swim instructors.

Membership update: November 1st we instituted the Non-Resident joiners fee. To date we have brought in \$1400 from those fees. As you can see from the reports, we gained 166 new memberships this past month. Our largest increase was family membership at 58 units. We are currently offering a College Winter Special for those home during break.

Programming Update: Last month we started a “boxing for life” Parkinson’s Program and currently have 9 participants in the program and we are elated to accept a donation of \$500 from the Newtown Visiting Nurses Association to assist with the startup costs for this program. We are working with the hospital and other providers to promote this program.

The Newtown High School Winter Art Show will be displayed the week of December 16th. The panels will be hung in the corridors and the show will run until January 3rd, where a closing reception for parents and students will take place in the lobby from 5-7 pm.

Last week we began the first of our “Schools out workshops” on snow days. We had 30 participants and plan to run these on days off.

The town is currently in the process of switching to a new finance system beginning in January. We are all going through the training process now. Winter Program Registration began yesterday and programs begin in the New Year.

In the lobby we are hosting a Giving Tree to benefit the Newtown Fund and Social Services. Gifts are due by Friday and I will be delivering on Saturday. There are a few ornaments left on the tree for items to be purchased.

Just a reminder, there are no rentals or events happening on Saturday December 14th, the anniversary of the tragedy. The Center will display the green heart in the lobby in remembrance of the victims.

We recently hosted the Rotary Pancake Breakfast and I had the opportunity to speak at the Commercial Realtors Holiday Luncheon that were both hosted at the center and were a great success.

A request for the second disbursement of operating funds has been requested of General Electric and I will be submitting our first years report by weeks end. Capital items are the items that were not part of the project on the financials.

The 2020 Budget process has begun, and a budget will be completed in the coming weeks. There was discussion on how GE money was kept track of and income produced by the Center. There was a lot of discussion on where the numbers came from to start with and how Mr Ariniello was going to come up with a budget before the Center had gone through the first year. Timers have been installed throughout the Center in increase efficiency in cost of heat, electric, pool etc. BOS will receive the Center's budget in January.

Committee requested Mr Ariniello ask Mr Tait to come to the next meeting and explain how the finances are set up.

2019 has produced positive feedback on the Center and accessibility of Mr Ariniello.

New Business

Mr Manfredonia talked about an article in the Sunday News Times on Newtown's growth.

Before the regular meeting the Strategic Planning Sub Committee met and discussed:

Building Capacity

Membership – surveys for programs, numbers, cost and outreach

Developing Strategic Partners – organizations, health awareness and volunteer growth

Financial outlook – making sure the center is self- sufficient and the GE money is able to last many years so the center is not a burden to the taxpayers

Ms Linnetz moved to adjourn at 8:28 2nd by Mr Tousignant. approved

Respectfully submitted, LeReine Frampton, clerk