

## Community Center Committee Minutes

June 16, 2020 Zoom Meeting

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE

Present: Kinga Walsh, Nancy Doniger, Doria Linnetz, Fred Taylor, Filippo Formica, Eleanor Cruwys-Hayes, Cheyanne Wirtz, Jeff Tousignant, Olivia Deschenes, Bill Manfredonia

Also Present: Matt Ariniello

Absent: Kevin Byrne

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm

There was no public.

Approval of minutes were tabled.

Ms Walsh notified the Committee that Mr Hartgraves was unable to continue on as a member of the committee. He offered valuable insight and longevity knowledge. He will be missed. Since we are waiting for change to occur to transition from committee to commission and we do not know the makeup of the commission, we are not looking to fill the opening at this time.

### **Directors Report**

Thank you to all for the help and support during the shut down. There were a lot of virtual programs offered which were well received. Mobile Art Kits were a huge hit.

The closing offered the opportunity to take care of many of the items on the punch list. There was a settlement reached for most of the items with the architect, engineer and the town. There has not been a settlement on some cracking issues and the fire pump yet because the items are still being addressed.

There has been an increase of scholarship requests, spring refunds and credits resulting in a revenue loss of about \$200,000. Additional COVID supply costs to date are about \$5000. There are currently 18 memberships on hold and 49 cancellations. Most of these are financial or at risk of COVID.

June 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a prorated charge and July billing date will be on the regular date.

Health and Wellness classes were given approval to be held outside by FFH Authority. There is a 10 person limit for inside and 25 for outside.

June 22 summer programs will begin. 65 children are enrolled in the program which will be run by adults. Guidelines are in opening report. This led to an extensive discussion regarding masks. The

center is multigenerational and not wearing masks will put other members at risk. What age will be required to wear masks? Who is responsible for policing this? Will children in the summer programs be required to wear masks at all times? There are different guidelines for camps, schools and public buildings. Discussion on human resource aspects, medical aspects and town policy. It was decided that Mr Ariniello would get an answer at the Emergency Management meeting to be held Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr Ariniello is also to express concerns by the committee over the safety of all our members.

Phase 1 allows the facility to open and start summer programming.

Phase 2 allows limited lap pool use and water aerobics limited to 10 persons.

Opening the pools with 20 people per hour in the therapy pool and 6 in the lap pool (or 20 during free swim). This will be done by reservations more information is in the reopening section of the minutes.

Use of hand dryers being used in the rest rooms was discussed. The center will be using paper towels for now due to the spread of COVID concerns. Patrons 2 and over must wear masks. All employees must wear masks. Ms Culbert joined via phone call to verify regulations. All members agreed we needed to follow the direction of the town Health Department.

Community Center members will be receiving a 10% discount on the all access pass offered as a joint effort with Park and Rec.

The survey planned in the March meeting is on hold until October.

Mulch is being delivered on the 18<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed for Friday and Monday morning to move and spread the mulch.

A modified Race for Chase will be held. It is a two week program with 20 participants. This program is full.

### **New Business:**



# Welcome Back!

## We have missed you!

**Beginning Monday, June 22nd the Newtown Community Center is reopening in phases!**

**Please be assured that your safety is our number one priority. We have put careful thought and planning into our reopening process.**

**We are very much looking forward to when we can all be together again! We understand how important it will be to follow current health guidelines and implement new practices to ensure a healthy and safe environment. You will see new cleaning routines, signage to assist with social distancing, and limited activities where social distancing or guidance tells us it is not yet safe. All members will complete a new liability waiver including infectious disease policies. Please keep in mind, these guidelines are subject to change based on new information or additional guidance from local, state and health officials.**

**Our team has begun training on the new required health and safety protocols prior to reopening and are looking forward to serving you.**

## REOPENING DATES AND HOURS

- **The Facility will be reopening in phases, the building will re-open on June 22nd**
- **We have made slight adjustments to our facility hours due to the Summer Season.**
  - **Monday- Thursday ( 6 am- 9 pm)**
  - **Friday (6 am-8 pm)**
  - **Saturday (7 am- 5:30 pm) & Sunday (7:30 am -5:00 pm)**
- **Guest and Day Passes will not be allowed access in an effort to practice safe physical distancing.**
- **As far as entering the building, members will use our touch free entrance doors and all summer program participants will enter and exit through the exterior East Wing doors.**

## WHAT ABOUT MY MEMBERSHIP DUES?

If you hold an annual membership, annual memberships have been extended for three months. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, current monthly members will receive a prorated charge for the month. For all monthly memberships, **your regular membership dues will resume regularly in July**. We understand that this might be a difficult time for some and have financial assistance applications available upon request. We understand some of you may not be ready to come back right now. We are here when you need us and encourage you to stay with us on social media and via email.

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please call us at (203) 270-4349 or via email [Matthew.Ariniello@newtown-ct.gov](mailto:Matthew.Ariniello@newtown-ct.gov).

## CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT ALLOWS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Floor markers, protective barriers and stantions will be present at check in and throughout the building
- Touch-free check in using your phone or key tag is suggested
- Gathering spaces, including lobby furniture and pool deck seating have been adjusted to assist with social distancing
- To ensure proper social distancing, some areas will have a limited capacity. Building capacity will be managed by the Welcome Desk who will be tracking members entering and exiting the facility

## ENHANCING FACILITY CLEANLINESS

- Cleaning and sanitizing equipment, locker rooms, and shared spaces will occur frequently throughout the facility
- Various spaces within the facility may be closed briefly for cleaning and sanitizing on a rolling basis daily
- All high touch areas such as doorknobs and countertops will be sanitized frequently. All doors that can be propped will be propped to limit touch points
- Our bathrooms are equipped with touchless water features, paper towel dispensers and blow dryers for use
- Additional safety stations with hand sanitizers and other cleaning supplies will be available

## HOW CAN I HELP KEEP MYSELF AND MY COMMUNITY HEALTHY?

- Wash/sanitize hands frequently signage will ensure this is being followed.
- Maintain social distance. Please respect all signage regarding social distancing. Strive to maintain at least six feet between you and others whenever possible.
- Please do not come to the Community Center if you have a fever, are experiencing flu-like symptoms, or have been in close contact with someone who is ill.
- Staff will be asked to wear appropriate masks while on duty and gloves when engaged in equipment or facility cleaning.
- All patrons will have wellness and temperature checks when entering beginning June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- We are working to minimize cash transactions and suggesting credit/debit card at this time.

- We require that team members report any illnesses or cases of COVID-19 in their household and or family to the Director.

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING WITH ME?

- We ask that all patrons arrive dressed in bathing suits prepared to swim to limit crowding in our Locker Rooms, reduce touch points and help increase social distancing.
- Please bring your own workout towel, yoga/stretching mat, lock for a locker, water, coffee, etc. during this reopening period.
- Members are required to wear their masks on to the pool deck. We ask that you bring a labeled zip lock bag to store your mask in during your swim
- Members will be strongly encouraged to wear a cloth face covering or mask while in our facility. Masks are not required in the pool. We ask that you wear masks while entering and exiting and in common areas like lobbies, hallways and locker rooms.

## WHAT AREAS WILL BE AVAILABLE?

- The Lap Pool, Therapy Pool and Recreational Pools will open in our first phase. We will follow state guidelines to allow for appropriate social distancing and meet 50% requirements in the pool area, which will include limiting the number of swimmers allowed per lane to 1. Lap lane and free reservations are encouraged, but not required. Lap lanes have been numbered to assist with registration.
- Reservation links will be available on our website and Facebook pages. Members will be required to set up an account prior to booking your time.
- Due to limited availability, we ask that you call in advance to cancel your swim session or a charge of \$10.00 will be incurred for reservation no shows
- Lifeguards will be in charge of monitoring pool time. Lap swimmers will receive an hour and a half to swim and free swim in the recreational pool and therapy pool will be allowed 1 1/2 hours. You are not able to book back to back swim times.
- Members will have the ability to reserve space in the pool 48 hours in advance through the reservation system.
- Lockers will be offered in a limited capacity to promote social distancing.
- Virtual group exercise classes and other virtual family programs will continue at this time.
- Health and Wellness classes (land) will begin on July 6th. A limited number of small group classes will be available June 22nd, some classes may be held outdoors on the Fairfield Hills Campus.
- Capacity limits have been added to Health and Wellness classes, registration instructions will follow as that phase gets closer.
- Life jackets and kickboards will be available only upon request for sanitizing purposes.
- Water fountains are closed until further notice, automatic bottle refill stations will remain open.
- Fliers and paper schedules will be reduced wherever possible. Fliers and materials will be kept behind the Welcome Desk and will be available online.
- Lobby seating has been spaced out for members to enjoy the facility comfortably.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding membership, programs and any of our new health and safety procedures. Please email me at [Matthew.Ariniello@newtown-ct.gov](mailto:Matthew.Ariniello@newtown-ct.gov).

We can't wait to see you!

*Ms Wirtz moved to adjourn at 8:43 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms Linnetz. approved*

Respectfully submitted, LeReine Frampton, clerk