

## Community Center Committee Minutes

August 18, 2020 Google Meet

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE

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

Also Present: Matt Ariniello

Absent: Jeff Tousignant, Doria Linnetz, Kevin Byrne,

Meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm

There was no public.

***Ms Doniger moved to accept the minutes from July 2020 meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr Manfredonia and approved.***

### Directors Report

It has been a challenging few weeks but, certainly ended on some high notes. Our summer programs are coming to a close and we have serviced 179 children to date in our 14 summer programs. I am so glad that with our current situation we were still able to service so many children. Last weekend we had our first Race 4 Chase Triathlon (Beautiful weather I might add) with 30 participants. We also served 221 people during the outage for wifi and charging, a true community service and it was great to see so many people utilizing the facility and realizing why we are here. We have lots of pictures on the website.

I met with the district's administrative team last week to propose the idea about the Return 2 Learn Emergency Childcare which was well received. The goal of this program is to service the community and especially working families who have no means of childcare on the days their children are hybrid learning and offer an affordable option. Children will be broken down by grade and school when considering placement. We have been interviewing academic support staff to assist with this program. So many parents struggled assisting their children with the academic piece of distance learning and we are glad to help. Currently we have 120 kids registered for the program. Some will Monday/Tuesday while some will be Thursday/ Friday

many will also be there Wednesday. There will be 10-14 per group depending on the room size. Since the Senior Center will not be open in September there will be two additional classrooms for the program. We have a limit of about 140 students. They will be K-6 students and we will be following BOE guidelines for hiring staff. I have created a child care expense and revenue line item to track this program. I have been working with the district to get left over furniture to use for the program, while upgrading our WIFI, order PPE and educational supplies. We are working on a Middle School homework club. We are working with Sacred Heart and West Conn for tutors for this program. There will be a floating tutor assigned to bring students to the bathroom since they are near main doors. Students will be broken down into three groups and each group will be assigned a different entrance to get to their classrooms.

We are getting a significant number of requests for financial assistance for this program. I have scheduled a meeting with the Human Services team to see how we can best accommodate the needs of these working families. I have applied for an emergency grant to assist through a local foundation and will hear by the end of the week. Teacher wellness programs will begin after the Labor Day holiday. I have met with the school team on how we can best provide safe and fun classes for our educators including virtual classes as well. Please let me know if you are available to help put together packets of supplies for children in the program.

### **Membership Update**

I am hoping to schedule our PSA video for next week as the script has been written. I plan to send the video to the committee prior to releasing to the public. Membership continues to be steady as we are not seeing as many cancellations or holds at this point anymore. I am open to suggestions on membership promotions for all the families that are utilizing the Return 2 Learn Program but are not members.

Fall programs are on the horizon and are set to begin the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>. Our Fall guide will be released next Monday. Jen and I have been busy trying to juggle the fall schedule to make sure we are accommodating the needs of all ages and adhering to COVID policies and procedures in regards to mixing of children. Our summer sessions went well with the new procedures, staff were great in following the new protocols and we will be adding more classes for the fall.

We are excited to be the new home for the Rotary Club's monthly meetings. We believe the clubs principles of fellowship, dedication and commitment to the community are a great fit.

### **Better Day Café Update**

The Better Day Café will reopen September 8<sup>th</sup> and will change its business model as well. The Café will not only be serving the public but also doing lunch items for the childcare program. I had to readjust some duties to COVID-19. I have reapplied for a grant for the café for 2020-2021 through a private foundation.

### **Kids Kove**

At this time, I do not plan to reopen Kids Kove in September due to childcare restrictions. I plan to do a survey at the end of the month to members.

**Staffing & Summer Hours**

We are currently hiring for Welcome Desk positions due to some college students leaving. The positions are posted on the town website and our website. I am looking to go back to normal hours after the Labor Day holiday.

Other news:

The Friends of the Newtown Community Center has received a generous donation of \$2,500.00 from the Newtown Pride. (soccer team)

There is a possibility of night time rentals in September following COVID regulations but still cannot host open meetings.

We are hoping to send our survey out mid September.

Reminder that the minimum wage will be increasing to \$12 soon.

We are looking into a flu shot clinic to be held in the parking lot.

The pool sign up process will continue through September. We are using 30% capacity in the recreational pool and 5% in the lap pool.

Mr Taylor moved to adjourn at 7:54pm Ms Wirtz 2<sup>nd</sup> – approved

Respectfully submitted,

LeReine Frampton, clerk

**From July 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020**

[illegible]