

Community Center Committee Minutes

Special Meeting December 1, 2020

8 Simpson Street
Newtown, CT 06470
Multipurpose Room

Meeting held in person and remotely via Google Meet due to COVID-19 precautions

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE

Present: Kevin Byrne, Eleanore Cruwys-Hayes, Nancy Doniger, Olivia Deschenes, Doria Linnetz, Jeff Tousignant, Filippo Formica, Bill Manfredonia Matt Ariniello, Kinga Walsh and Cheyanne Wirtz

Absent: Fred Taylor, Jeff Tousignant and Kevin Byrne

Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by Kinga Walsh.

Director's Report

COVID-19 Related Update

Addressing the recent COVID-19 restrictions and capacity reductions

Mr. Ariniello reported on the post November 24th capacity restrictions. He gave some background information regarding recent restrictions, which significantly reduced pool capacity. One of the many steps Mr. Ariniello took towards pushing for a return to the pre-Nov 24th COVID-19 guidelines, as well as to get clarification on guideline-inconsistencies (while ensuring the safety of the Community Center staff and members), was writing a letter to Economic Development director as well as outreaches to the State's pool licensing and health directors. Mr. Ariniello has been in contact with Donna Culbert, Newtown's Director of Health, to weigh in on the matter. He has also emailed various state agencies to ask for clarifications. Moreover, Mr. Ariniello contacted State Representatives Mitch Bolinsky and Tony Hwang asking for their help to have these guidelines reviewed and hopefully revised.

Mr Ariniello emphasized, during a conversation with a CT highly recognized pool licensing agent, that the locker room is a point of contact that may be a better guideline base rather than the pool or pool deck. He also noted the act of swimming is for personal health reasons and the availability is important for community members now more than ever. Fortunately, last night Mr. Ariniello received a reversal of these newer restrictions to be:

- One person per lap lane (CC will maintain 2 :30 minute lap slots along with :45 minute slots), 30 people in spray bay and therapy pool, 7 in water aerobics and 6 in the lap pool (one per lane).

The Center as a whole is inundated with lap swimming reservations and water aerobics attendees. Zoom classes for Health & Wellness programs will be launching to offer a virtual option to continue to engage members. State guidelines for the locker rooms are based on spacing between lockers.

Mr. Ariniello and the Committee are confident the Center is able to remain open for now. When new guidelines continue to evolve, Mr. Ariniello and the Committee members will reevaluate.

The Committee thanked Mr. Ariniello for his continued hard work and steadfast dedication to the Center, it's staff and it's members.

Nancy Doniger moved to adjourn at 6:56p. Seconded by Cheyanne Wirtz . All in favor and motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Kiley Morrison Gottschalk, Clerk

Attachments:

None