

Community Center Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting December 15, 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: Kinga Walsh, Nancy Doniger, Doria Linnetz, Fred Taylor, Jeff Tousignant, Matt Ariniello, Kevin Byrne, Eleanore Cruwys-Hayes, Bill Manfredonia, Olivia Deschenes and Filippo Formica

Absent: Cheyanne Wirtz

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

Public comment

None

Approval of minutes from 11/17/2020 and 12/1/20 meetings

Bill Manfredonia made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2020 meeting. Fred Taylor seconded. Kinga Walsh abstains. All in favor and motion passes.

Bill Manfredonia made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting on December 1, 2020. Doria Linnetz seconded. Jeff Tousignant abstains. Kinga Walsh noted a correction that Kevin Byrnes should only be listed as present and not both present and absent. Jeff Tousignant abstains as was absent at the December 1st meeting. All in favor and motion passes.

Financials: Review FY 2021 Budget and All Other Updates

Mr. Ariniello reported the Cares Act funding has been approved and the Center will receive ~\$3,000 in reimbursements (these funds spent were for Covid-related supplies to safely reopen in June). There was an increase of ~\$1,000 in expenditures. The Water and Sewer came in at ~\$12,000 (this bill comes in twice a year). There has been an increase in private swim lessons. Memberships are roughly \$1,000 in a negative balance for the month of November mostly due to holds related to Covid. Return 2 Learn brought in ~\$19,000 with \$5,000 in expenses. Regarding the winter, the Town takes care of paving the parking lots and the Center works with Parks and Rec to take care of the sidewalks (with a snow blower purchased by the Center last year). Some donations were received around Thanksgiving. The Center budgeted \$15,000 for the year for Community Events and due to the pandemic a transfer later on in the year will need to take place.

Kevin Byrnes highlighted and commended Matt and the staff that the Center is operating at an almost revenue-neutral level despite Covid. The Board also voiced their appreciation and support of Matt and his team and how well they are working towards this goal

Matt Ariniello recently corresponded with GE and they have accepted Matt's request and will be sending a check in January to fulfill their annual donation. GE is pleased with what the Center has done to help Newtown come together as a Community.

Director's Report (see attached)

General update

Light the Night Newtown was a huge success selling out within hours. Due to popular demand, two additional nights were added. In total, the event served over 1,500 cars. The Center is currently promoting Gift Certificates and Private Swim Lesson packages for the holidays. Mr. Ariniello and his team will be delivering the Giving Tree items later this week to those families in need. There are also promoting a virtual giving tree to support the center (ex. swim scholarships, memberships).

Covid related update

The Center continues to encourage the members and staff to wear masks and utilize social distancing and follow the new protocols put in place around pools. The Cares Act funding has been approved and the Center will receive ~\$3,000 in reimbursements (these funds spent were for supplies to safely reopen in June).

Discussion and possible action on 2021 Meeting Dates

Nancy Doniger made a motion to approve the Community Center Committee 2021 Regular Meeting Schedule. Doria Linnetz seconded. All in favor and motion passes.

Discussion and possible action on membership rates

The Committee discussed non-resident membership rates. The main discussion was around the idea of whether or not non-residents are impacting Newtown residents' experience utilizing the Center. The Membership Sub-Committee will meet in January to discuss further details.

Discussion and possible action on Committee to Commission's Purpose Statement

Mrs. Walsh shared that the Ordinance Sub-Committee in charge of changing this Committee to a Commission requested a more formalized Purpose Statement.

Nancy Doniger made a motion to open discussion regarding the Committee becoming a Commission Purpose statement. Jeff Tousignant seconded. The members discussed this further.

Discussion and possible action on additional safety measures in pool area

Mr. Ariniello reported that he has been talking with the Aquatics Director about a communication device should emergency take place in the water. More information on this at the January meeting.

Fred Taylor moved to adjourn at 7:57p. Seconded by Nancy Doniger. All in favor and motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Kiley Morrison Gottschalk, Clerk

Attachments:

Director's Report December 2020
2021 Newtown Community Center Committee Meetings

Directors Report

December 15th, 2020

Directors Report

This weekend's event was a great success. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered and helped us make this event what it was. There was a lot of coordination and a lot of standing in the cold, Thank You! We serviced 1,500 cars in the three days of the event. We are happy to report that the event went smoothly and looking to host the event again next year. We will be planning a recap meeting for later this week.

Return 2 Learn program is once again in full swing with 75 kids in attendance. We are very gracious for the assistance of the district's behavioral interventionists who have stepped in to assist us. The Better Cafe is quarantining until January 4th, our staff is currently preparing hot lunch.

We are currently promoting Gift Certificates and Private Swim Lesson packages for the holidays. We are delivering all of our giving tree items later this week to those families in need. We will also be promoting a virtual giving tree to support the center (ex. swim scholarships, memberships).

We are currently reviewing other reservation systems as we realize this might be long term. We are looking to see if there are other softwares that might better fit our needs.

Our Health and Wellness Zoom classes have launched and we are seeing members participate on a regular basis.

We had a few successful programs in the month of December. Our wreath making workshop had 15 participants, Gingerbread House Workshop had 16 and our Frozen Pool Party has 20 registrants. This past weekend we hosted a Girls Empowerment Workshop with 10 girls participating.

We are currently in the process of putting together our Winter guide to be released the first week in January.

2021 Newtown Community Center Committee Meetings
Newtown Community Center
8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT
All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

January 19, 2021

February 16, 2021

March 16, 2021

April 20, 2021

May 18, 2021

June 15, 2021

July 20, 2021

August 17, 2021

September 21, 2021

October 19, 2021

November 16, 2021

December 7, 2021

January 18, 2022