



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 23th, 2017 7:00 p.m. Town Hall South

PRESENT: Bill Buchler, Andy Clure, Brian Hartgraves, Carla Kron, Amy Mangold, Maureen Crick Owen, Kinga Walsh.

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Pat Llodra (8:23 pm – 8:44 pm)

ABSENT: Nicole Hockley, Brian Leidlein, David Wheeler.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Hartgraves called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:04 pm.

VOTER COMMENT: None.

MINUTES: MR. BUCHLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2017 MEETING. SECOND BY MR. CLURE. ALL IN FAVOR. (Abstain Ms. Crick Owen, Ms. Kron, Ms. Mangold)

MINUTES: MS. MANGOLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING. SECOND BY MS. CRICK OWEN. ALL IN FAVOR. (Abstain Ms. Kron, Ms. Walsh)

COMMUNICATIONS: Ms. Llodra sent a note regarding the dates for an official ground breaking September 19 or 20. Ms. Walsh said she reached out about PR efforts and to get in touch with Christal Preszler. Mr. Hartgraves will talk to GE about press and discuss with families who lost loved ones 12/14. Ms. Mangold asked about a project pamphlet for residents, Ms. Walsh said that she will bring that up with Ms. Preszler. Ms. Walsh said that she put the Community Center links on Facebook. Mr. Hartgraves said that the Committee intends to be inclusive, but regarding building plans, major changes are not really possible at this stage. Mr. Buchler reviewed past planning processes and offered to discuss it further with the communications subcommittee. Ms. Walsh offered to put together a timeline. Ms. Mangold spoke about restructuring programs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sub-committee Reports

Grants Donations & Funding Subcommittee: Mr. Clure said that at the subcommittee meeting Ms. Mangold suggested partnering with Stuart Amusements to hold a fall carnival to be held at the Fairfield Hills campus, with proceeds to benefit the Community Center. October 20-22 dates discussed. Ms. Mangold asked Stuart Amusements for revenue projections, 25% of ticket sales discussed, negotiation necessary. Management of volunteers discussed as well as rental of restroom facilities. Mr. Buchler asked Ms. Mangold for more details, rental fees, volunteer hours, overall expenses and net revenue. If supported, Mr. Clure offered to be the liaison.

Fundraising Committee: Mr. Clure recapped a first meeting where initial ideas were posed and discussions included fundraising strategies, grants from foundations, grant application process. Ms. Walsh will get the process started and consider sensitivities of funding possibilities. Mr. Clure said he is looking into the possibility for a donation button on the Newtown website. Ms. Walsh suggested to clarify mission statement for donations before going further.

Design Subcommittee: Mr. Buchler said no changes, except on the senior center side, placeholder until organizational structure is decided, engineering changes to save money was discussed. Mr. Clure reported on progress as discussed in design meeting yesterday.

Communications Subcommittee: Mr. Buchler said that he will relay feedback to victim's families regarding Community Center ground breaking.

Organizational Subcommittee: Mr. Hartgraves asked the Committee to provide objective feedback regarding the pros and cons under the three models for the organizational structure of the management of the Community Center. Mr. Buchler captured the pros and cons on white board which included:

STAND ALONE

PRO:

1. MORE SENIOR LEVEL LEADER WITH EXPERIENCE REPORTING TO FIRST SELECTMAN.
2. DEDICATED MARKETING FOCUS.

CON:

1. POTENTIAL DUPLICATION OF SERVICES WITH PARKS AND REC AND INCREASED \$.
2. REQUIRES MORE TIME TO HIRE STAFF.

OUTSOURCED 3rd PARTY

PRO:

1. ASSUMED EXPERIENCE IN RUNNING CENTERS.
2. OUTSOURCE HIRING.

CON:

1. POTENTIAL DUPLICATION OF SERVICES WITH PARKS AND REC AND INCREASED \$.
2. VENDOR MANAGEMENT.

PARKS AND REC SHARED STAFF

PRO:

1. LOWER OPERATIONAL COSTS.
2. LESS TIME TO HIRE STAFF.
3. LESS ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRACTIONS FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, P&R DIRECTOR COVERS.

CON:

1. PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT IT IS A REC CENTER, NOT A COMMUNITY CENTER.

Parking Lot – For Further Discussion:

1. Cross department work.
2. Parks and Rec bandwidth.
3. Administrative space in building.

Ms. Llodra thanked the Committee for their involvement. It would be her preference to eliminate the Outsourced 3rd Party model.

Mr. Hartgraves stressed the need for objectivity from the Committee at this point, work to continue the process to provide feedback to the Board of Selectman at the upcoming meeting. He suggested that this possibly go back to subcommittee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ground Breaking Communications (*discussed in sub-committee report*)

VOTER COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Committee decided to have a meeting next Wednesday at 5:00 pm in preparation for organizational structure recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT: THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS MS. KRON MOVED TO ADJOURN. SECOND BY MS. WALSH. ALL IN FAVOR. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

June Sgobbo, Clerk

These are draft minutes and as such are subject to correction by the Community Center Advisory Committee at the next regular meeting. All corrections will be determined in the minutes at which they were corrected.