



# TOWN OF NEWTOWN

## COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 13th, 2017 7:00 p.m.      Municipal Building Conf Rm 1.

**PRESENT:** Andy Clure (7:08), Brian Hartgraves, Carla Kron, Amy Mangold, Kinga Walsh.

**ALSO PRESENT:** 1 public.

**ABSENT:** Bill Buchler, Nicole Hockley, Brian Leidlein, Maureen Crick Owen, David Wheeler.

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

**VOTER COMMENT:** Adele Unger, 8 Skidmore Lane, Sandy Hook – With regard to concerns over the new Community Center, Ms. Unger said that she put a post on Facebook, up to 400 comments, plus people have spoken to her verbally, she is very concerned over the financial aspect of the Community Center project, without the two revenue generating options - a competition swimming pool and ice rink. Ms. Unger said that the recommendations, survey results, which have been brought forward were not recognized. Ms. Unger said that she is concerned about what is going to be in the Community Center for children, she was hoping that the Community Center would give the kids something to do that was productive, keep them out of trouble, and at the same time hoping the Community Center would not be a huge tax burden on the citizens. Ms. Unger admitted that she is swim parent, but was not here on the swim agenda. Ms. Unger said that she believed that an 8 lane, 50 meter pool would have brought in significant income, offsetting program costs. With a non-competition size pool as planned, Ms. Unger said that there is no chance for growth the way the pool is designed, serving no purpose if it will never be able to be a competition pool. Ms. Unger said that she is in support of a new senior center, but the Community Center should be focused on children, in the current plan there is a lot of open space that is convertible, focusing on programs that will accommodate needs. Ms. Unger said that she thought plans were moving forward with the way residents voted for it, she said that now she finds out that it is too late, she plans to address concerns with the First Selectman. Ms. Unger asked the CCAC be open to these ideas and to see if there is more to be done.

Ms. Kron spoke to frustrations but there will be a lot of activities for all age groups, the space is designed to be flexible.

Ms. Mangold welcomed Ms. Unger's daughter and friends to bring feedback to her for programming for teens. Mr. Hartgraves thanked Ms. Unger for bringing her comments and concerns forward.

**MINUTES: MS. MANGOLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 23, 2017 MEETING. SECOND BY MR. CLURE.** Ms. Walsh asked to amend the minutes to include her comments recommending model 4 with the condition that a third party consultant with direct experience in center management be hired to help develop a business plan. **ALL IN FAVOR TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 23, 2017 MEETING WITH AMENDED COMMENT TO INCLUDE MS. WALSH RECOMMENDS MODEL 4 WITH THE CONDITION THAT A THIRD PARTY CONSULTANT WITH DIRECT EXPERIENCE IN CENTER MANAGEMENT BE HIRED TO HELP DEVELOP A BUSINESS PLAN. 4-0 (Abstain: Mr. Clure)**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Hartgraves announced that there will not be a ground breaking, but will do ribbon cutting when open.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Subcommittee:**

*Fundraising Subcommittee:* Mr. Clure said the committee met and will meet again tomorrow. Mr. Clure said that the committee passed on the carnival. Mr. Clure said the committee will have more updates at the next meeting, also the grant was passed on, it was too much of a rush to put it through. Mr. Clure said that the committee will have updates on the items that are outside of the scope, Ms. Walsh will have an update on corporate sponsorship. Ms. Kron spoke to the scholarship fund, Mr. Clure offered to bring it up tomorrow at the 8:00 am meeting. Ms. Walsh created a vision/mission statement and will bring that to the meeting tomorrow and from that determine priorities.

*Communications Subcommittee:* Ms. Walsh said nothing to report. Mr. Hartgraves said that Ms. Kron brought up communications and if there would be another open forum or something else. Ms. Kron said it is important to try to get the word out, for example after the Board of Selectman's meeting, decisions that were made relating to the Community Center, to put on Facebook. Ms. Kron offered to do a Facebook post. Ms. Walsh asked to include recent newsworthy items. Ms. Mangold referred to an article about the BoS meeting in the hardcopy of The Bee that could be copied or linked on the Facebook page. Mr. Hartgraves asked the group to decide on the communication objective and proceed from there as plans progress.

*Organizational Subcommittee:* No report from Ms. Kron.

*Design Subcommittee:* Mr. Hartgraves spoke to the meeting schedule to be rescheduled and to await new schedule.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Groundbreaking** – as Mr. Hartgraves previously announced, no ground breaking ceremony is planned.

### **Next Steps for hiring a director (process and description)**

#### **Formation of the Community Center Commission (Description, Roles and Responsibilities)**

Mr. Hartgraves said the next step for the organizational subcommittee is to develop a job description, along with establishing a permanent Community Center commission set-up with roles and responsibilities. Ms. Mangold distributed the Town of Newtown Charter as reference to boards and commissions. With regard to a deadline, Mr. Hartgraves asked how much time is needed, Ms. Kron said that they are partway there and could possibly get something done by early October or November.

**Narrative on Performa and Business Plan** – Mr. Hartgraves said to start laying the groundwork on the business plan, need a single view of that work and what it says. Mr. Clure spoke to the 4 performas so far. Mr. Clure said that we can put something together for what we know today. Mr. Hartgraves asked for a summary to move forward. Mr. Clure discussed the history of the commission and narrative on performa. Mr. Clure said perhaps another subcommittee to look further. Ms. Walsh and Mr. Hartgraves agreed on a subcommittee. Mr. Hartgraves to address again.

**VOTER COMMENT:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Future meetings will be at Town Hall South.

**ADJOURNMENT:** THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, MR. CLURE MOVED TO ADJOURN. SECOND BY MS. KRON. ALL IN FAVOR. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 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.*