



# TOWN OF NEWTOWN

## COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Special Meeting

August 18th, 2017 4:30 p.m. Council Chambers, Municipal Center

**PRESENT:** Bill Buchler, Andy Clure, Brian Hartgraves, Brian Leidlein (4:52), Amy Mangold, Maureen Crick Owen.

**ABSENT:** Nicole Hockley, Carla Kron, Kinga Walsh, David Wheeler.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Hartgraves called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 4:42 pm.

### **COMMUNITY CENTER ORGANIZATION DISCUSSION**

The committee reviewed a draft of pros and cons for three options for organizational models, Mr. Hartgraves asked for feedback and to add to the pros and cons to the three options. (ATTACHMENT - DRAFT)

### **OPTION 1 - STAND ALONE**

The committee began discussion bringing up previously listed pros and cons from a working draft. Based on conversations, the committee listed pros and cons of each option.

**Pros:** independent brand, more senior level leader, no perceived bias in working community partners, raises visibility of center as director would report to the First Selectman (on par with P&R and COA), does not require admin. space for P & R, perhaps better marketing focus.

**Cons:** potential for duplication of town efforts, potential conflict between different town groups, cost more (more staff, duplicate positions, increase taxing), potential lack of institutional knowledge, lose some synergies between departments, competitive and duplicate programming with NYA and Parks & Rec., lack of "One Stop Shopping," increased coordination, more time to staff up.

Ms. Crick Owen asked for more detail on the perceived bias in working community partners.

Ms. Hartgraves spoke to the possibility of a conflict or competition of programming.

Mr. Buchler said that groups/departments will need to work together. Mr. Hargraves said that there should not be conflict, but there would need to be increased collaboration with the departments. Mr. Leidlein said they would need to coordinate and work together.

Ms. Mangold said that parks and rec and senior center are separate, similar goals, similar community efforts, when there is a situation when we want to collaborate, that is not always the case.

Mr. Buchler asked if the pro would be not having to deal with problem. Ms. Mangold disagreed that is not a pro, she is looking for coordination from all departments.

Ms. Crick Owen spoke to increased coordination and that there will be more work involved with the increased coordination, a con.

Mr. Leidlein added a pro could be to generate revenue to current programs that do not generate revenue. Ms. Mangold clarified the position of revenue with parks and rec. and said that parks and rec does generate revenue, most programs are self-funded. Mr. Buchler said to pull the revenue discussion aside and Ms. Mangold offered to review/clarify the revenue and expense budgets for the committee.

Mr. Buchler asked to consider the discussion of should the community center be the home of parks and rec.

Mr. Hartgraves said to think about pros and cons and review at the next meeting.

## **OPTION 2 - OUTSOURCED THIRD PARTY**

**Pros:** independent brand, experience running facility, no perceived bias in working community partners, could be cheaper than hiring town staff, no time to staff up.

**Cons:** potential for duplication of town efforts, potential conflict between different town groups, cost more (more staff, duplicate positions, increase taxing), potential lack of institutional knowledge, lose some synergies between departments, competitive and duplicate programming with NYA and Parks & Rec., lack of “One Stop Shopping,” vendor management.

Ms. Crick Owen would like to see marketing experience.

Mr. Clure spoke to cost savings with benefits.

## **OPTION 3 - UNDER PARK & REC, SHARED STAFF**

**Pros:** Rebrand of “Parks and Rec” to “Parks, Rec and Community” to model one structure, lower facility cost through consolidation of office space, lower staff cost (shared model), extends current partnerships, one stop shopping, single revenue generator (either through programs or fund raising), enhanced work productivity and collaboration, less time to staff up.

**Cons:** lowers the visibility of the leader (not on par with P&R or COA), requires more administrative space (and taking away from CC), evolving the CC model (change management), lack of independent identity (it may look more like a parks and rec facility instead of a community center), possibly more difficult to track parks and rec costs vs community center costs (GE funds), built-in bias that parks and rec takes priority, lack of new set of eyes.

Ms. Crick Owen spoke to generating revenue as a pro.

Mr. Clure suggested adding enhancing work productivity and collaboration as a pro.

Ms. Mangold reviewed the current Parks and Rec management structure. Ms. Mangold said that you will not need to do a national search for a director.

Mr. Buchler spoke to change in management as a difficulty, it will take time. Mr. Clure spoke to SFA staffing up timeline.

Ms. Mangold spoke to the mention of a \$200,000 salary for a community center director, that salary level would not be necessary if under parks and rec.

Ms. Crick Owen spoke to the management costs, Mr. Clure asked how expenses would be separated. Ms. Mangold said that there are financial practices that will be put in place, consult with Bob Tait.

Ms. Crick Own asked about floor plans for administrative space. Ms. Mangold said that architects are focusing more on programmatic areas. Mr. Hartgraves said not to consider space considerations at this time.

Mr. Hartgraves suggested to look at the pros and cons and discuss further at the next meeting, Wednesday, August 23, 2017.

“Parking lot” items to consider, to be determined:

- Where is park and rec going to be long term?
- Possible rebranding of Park, Rec, and Community.

**VOTER COMMENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT: THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, MR. CLURE MOVED TO ADJOURN. SECOND BY MR. BUCHLER.** Meeting adjourned at 6:03.

Respectfully submitted,

June Sgobbo, Clerk

Attachment: Draft of the 3 Options – pros and cons.

*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.*