

# Community Center Committee Minutes

Special Meeting August 6, 2019

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE

**Present:** Kinga Walsh, Nancy Doniger, Doria Linnetz , Fred Taylor, Bill Manfredonia

**Also Present:** Matt Ariniello, First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Member of the Press, Kiley Gottschalk (Clerk)

**Absent:** Kevin Byrne, Olivia Deschenes, Cheyanne Wirtz, Jeff Tousignant, Filippo Formica

Meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by Kinga Walsh. Attendees saluted flag.

**Approving minutes tabled due to lack of attendance by committee members.**

Ms. Walsh noted the importance of bringing the community together in regards to recent events on a national scale. First Selectman commended Mr. Ariniello and his team for an excellent beginning.

## **First Responders Discount**

Ms. Walsh reiterated the importance of the Town's first responders. The Committee and First Selectman discussed the current Town first responder discounts (e.g., Park and Rec) and qualifications needed to receive (i.e., active volunteer status of fire, ambulance, and NUSAR first responders). Committee discussed need to check the criteria each year as well as track who has joined should the discount be approved.

Ms. Walsh will ask committee members to attend September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting so action can be made on possible First Responder's Discount.

## **Old Business**

### **Directors Report**

#### **Membership Update**

Membership is currently 433 in two weeks (actual members 1,049).

#### **Construction Update**

Construction is mostly finished. Some punch list items include pools, electricity/sensors in locker rooms, exterior lighting. Mr. Ariniello addressed ongoing construction concerns in locker rooms (shower water is pooling and a solution is in the works). A larger voltage was brought into the kiln room. Temperatures in the pool are now status quo.

Registration for Water Safety week is out including water safety education and free swim lessons (with the help from multiple grants received).

**Miscellaneous Updates:**

The Multipurpose Room materials have arrived. First rental will be this Saturday for a private party of 80. United Way for a Senior Leadership Conference is also renting space this week.

NCC found a cleaning service to clean 5 days a week within budget and Maintainer for Public Works will take the alternate two days that have lower traffic.

A Bookkeeper, Gennifer Echaviaria, started Tuesday working 20 hours/week. Lead Playmaker (grant position) Shaylan Fahey will be helping 5 hours/week.

In July, scholarships were awarded through the grant committee. On-going reviews will be made on a case by case basis.

Fall Registration begins August 19<sup>th</sup> along with the Fall Program Schedule.

Permanent website will be put into place within next couple of weeks.

Due to boiler issues at the high school and the district's need to close the high school pool, Mr. Ariniello has offered the High School and the Torpedoes Swim Teams two morning sessions from 5a-7a, Thursday nights from 7p-9p and Sunday evenings (until remedied). He explained, and the Committee agreed, that since the Center is newly opened, members need to have continued and greater access to the pools therefore available options are limited. Ms. Walsh is pleased the NCC is here to help serve the community.

Mr. Ariniello will be bringing the Program Committee together mid Fall to reevaluate what is currently offered and determine which programs are working and where new options can fall. He will report back once that meeting takes place.

Discussion around hallway usage goals such as additional benches, charging stations, arcade games, ping pong tables, etc took place. Further discussion to be had at the September meeting.

*Sensory Sundays* are a designated day where swim lessons will take place for children with special needs. There will be a playgroup held after the swim lessons.

Mr. Ariniello is working with Public Works to create a driveway in the rear of the building for deliveries specifically for chlorine, propane and other such deliveries.

Once utility bills start to come in, Mr. Ariniello will meet with the Senior Center and Parks and Rec to allocate costs.

Throughout August, there will be a *Friends and Family* event on Fridays for Newtown Residents only. These Fridays will allow non members to try the facility.

### **Water Safety Week – August 12-15**

Swim lessons commenced with 86 students. The Leonard Family (of Stew Leonard's) will be coming to Water Safety Week. NCC rec'd \$5,000 for preschool children to receive swim lessons. The first efforts will reach out to Town preschools that receive funding assistance such as Children's Adventure Center.

### **Welcome Week August 26<sup>th</sup>**

Every night will have different programs for individuals and/or families. For example, ice cream social hosted by Ferris Acres, Coffee Night, etc.

### **Local Events (Volunteers needed)**

- 1) Staples "Block Party" Event on August 28-29 in Danbury
- 2) Arts Festival in September
- 3) Movie Night 8/13
- 4) Labor Day Parade

### **Grand Opening Event**

The Grand Opening Event will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr Ariniello will set up a subcommittee meeting to begin planning.

### **Recap/Next Steps on Outstanding Areas**

**Landscaping** needs to be finished prior to Winter. Mr. Ariniello will recreate a map to show specific plans. Mr. Manfredonia suggested calling Dig Safe.

**Furniture** is almost completed. Art room furniture arrived. Senior Center is waiting on a piece. A few other pieces are outstanding.

**Exterior Signs** to show Fairfield Hills there are bathrooms available will be added. Additional exterior signs are being ordered to help navigate throughout Fairfield Hills. Other signage was discussed.

**Window furnishings** were cut out of the project due to budget constraints. Mr Ariniello to get estimates for coverings so funding options can be discussed.

**Fencing on water/gas meters**-- -- Fire Marshall wants every door and window to have a number. Mr. Ariniello mentioned the need to complete fencing around the gas lines.

**Front Cross Walk**— a pedestrian sign has been ordered to differentiate crosswalk vs parking lot vs entrance into NCC. Town will also be installing a barrier to ensure cars do not drive into lot through crosswalk.

***Nancy Doniger moved to adjourn at 8:30p. Seconded by Fred Taylor. All in favor and approved.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Kiley Gottschalk, Clerk