

## Community Services Advisory Commission Minutes

5/20/15

Present: Nicki Dresser, Debbie Butterworth, Sarah MacColl, Trish Brigham, Amy Lombardo new members Joe Whalen & Tara Simopoulos. Meredith Nadeua, school superintendent was also present, David Hillman absent.

Russell opened the meeting at 6:35. New members Joe Whelan and Tara Simopoulos were welcomed and Russell summarized the role of the Commission for them.

Eyes and ears in community for Community Services, and a communicator to the community about what the facts are around various Community Services programs.

Russell explained the various activities the commission is involved with, as well as the meeting schedule for the coming year ( one more meeting in June).

Meredith explained that at the February Town Council meeting a goal was set to review how Community Services is structured (re: oversight) and to determine if that is the structure that makes the most sense. It is a somewhat odd arrangement as it sits, and there will be key issues coming forth, and thinking collaboratively about how to move forward might be made easier if everyone is clearer about how and why who has the final say about community expenditures ( pool, CS building, schools).

New Chair: Sarah MacColl

Office Update:

Russell reported on winding down school, winding up summer.

Great Community Dinner -- about 60 seniors.

Budget update;

The CS budget was approved by the Town Council. Russell made note of the 14.8% uptick in the CS budget ( \$68 K). This was the Capital Improvement line which went up by \$50K as was advised to be raised by the Facilities Planning process in 2014. To maintain our community assets we need to invest in their upkeep. Also, the pool staff pay scale was increased to rise to the level of other area pools which resulted in an increase in the budget.

Some of the projects in CS buildings that will get some funding are

- exit doors that must be replaced \$13K
- stairwell stairs will be replaced with more durable surface
- heating system to be updated ( original system not great)
- dishwasher to be replaced
- pool: shower upgrades, indoor door replacement, heating and ventilation system
- upgraded heater for spa

Russell reviewed the 1,798,139 CS budget. Of that \$533K is the local share while the balance of \$1,265,139 will be raised through user fees.

New June Meeting Date: Weds June 10, 6:30 p.m.

New Business:

Tara brought up the idea of a food truck day for a fund raising for the preschool playground. A discussion ensued about naming rights, permits for food trucks. The June meeting will include an agenda item for fundraising for the playground.

Joe asked how community services programs are decided upon, and Russell reviewed that it is a combination of staff input, history, and revenue issues. People come and suggest programs, and discussions happen to try to determine what might work.

Another item for June agenda: Adult Fitness offerings can they be marketed better with some kind of branding?

Submitted by Sarah MacColl