

Community Services Committee
September 21, 2016

Meeting called to order 6:35 pm.

Present: Sarah MacColl, Debbie Butterworth, Amy Lombard, Trish Brigham, Terri Patterson, Staff Liaison Russell Packett. Guest Town Manager Mike McGovern

1. **Public Comment** – no public in attendance
2. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – June 15, 2016 Minutes accepted
3. **Correspondence** – Russell shared an email from a citizen after the Pool Forum advocating for maintaining lap swim times. In addition, the email urged Community Services to be aware of swimmers who may migrate from one CS program to another and how that might impact pool utilization. Sarah also shared a personal conversation she had with a citizen who was at the forum. This individual shared that she was a bit shell-shocked that there seemed to be a hidden agenda at the meeting. She said that she felt a bit intimidated and uncomfortable with some of the conversation.

4. **Agenda Items**

Committee discussion with the Town Manager – Mike took a few moments to talk about the transition of CS from the School side to the Town's side. He thanked the group for volunteering their time to serve on the Committee and to confirm that one of the items the Town Council did in the transition was move forward all existing terms of the Community Services Committee. Mike shared that overall the transition he thinks has been a healthy change. He had the opportunity to come by the building one day in June to meet with all of the staff and to hear their thoughts on how things are going and to hear about some of the needs the staff thought there was and then tried to address most of them during the initial transition. His impression is that Community Services is doing very well and is being responsive to the community. There are some concerns that we might not be doing enough for Senior Citizens. Although, he thinks some of that might be a matter of branding or labeling as opposed to the actual reality of you look at the programs and offerings that community services are providing. Overall he is extremely pleased in his opinion it has been a fairly seamless transition. There was some discussion on a number of additional topics. Trish asked Mike about a potential TC liaison to the Committee. He shared that at the moment the TC has voted to stop all liaisons to various committees. He believes down the road there will be some discussion on how committees will be able to communicate back to the TC.

Office Update - Russell shared all that has been going on within Community Services since the group last met in June. He stated that the biggest benefit for him in the transition to the town side was that at the end of the fiscal year there was unassigned fund balance that the Town Manager was nice enough to include Community Services in the reallocation of those funds. As a result Community Services received 15K for odds and ends to upgrade items at both the pool/fitness

center and the community center building. Items purchased range from storage racks, lifeguard chairs, and swim aids at the pool. Lots of small fitness equipment center (balls, weights etc) for the fitness center. In addition we purchased new tables for the community room, some office equipment and new preschool classroom furniture in the Community Center. All of that money hasn't been used yet and we will be looking at a number of additional upgrades as we continue on in the fiscal year. Russel had asked staff for a wish lists to spend the money on and the staff was conservative and frugal and for the most part got everything they asked for. The purchases have been a great moral booster for staff. The other piece of news was that as part of the reallocation of funds the town manager included 50K for use in the rehab of the playground behind the high school. There has been discussion about replacing the playground for 2 years with some difficulty in gaining traction financially. The 50K will be almost all of what the group needs to complete the project and it has renewed a tremendous amount of enthusiasm among the preschool staff and the preschool parents. At this time Community Services is already engaged with a Landscape Architect who is in the design phase of the project. The timeline for completion of the project is by the end of the fiscal year.

Russell also shared that on Tuesday he and Kathy Raftice met with Mike and Jessica Sullivan (TC liaison to the senior group) to talk big picture about senior issues/concerns and how Community Services might be able to help with some of those issues/concerns. One of the topics that came out of the discussion was transportation. Mike suggested at the meeting that we should just go to the Town Council and ask for the money to purchase a vehicle. Russell and Kathy are in the process on a memo and will get it to Mike by the end of the week and then Mike will include it as an action item of the October 5th TC meeting. And with any luck maybe this will be another item Community Services will be able to click off its want list. Some further discussion around the purchase of the and how it will be a great thing for seniors in the community.

Lastly in the reallocation was 50K designated for additional upgrades as part of the pool project. Those upgrades included removal of most of the stainless steel door, toilet partitions, mirrors and shower rods and replacing them with more friendly to keep clean materials. On top of that the locker rooms have all been painted, showers re-grouted, new lighting and ceiling tiles.

Russell shared that the pool should open on schedule on Saturday and everyone is excited about that.

In other department news he shared that the preschool is back open and everyone is excited that we have 16 kids in the preschool and 50 kids (our max based on staffing ratios) every afternoon for after care. The only struggle is that finding help is the biggest challenge that Community Services faces. Russell also shared updates on other CS programming news. Everything is off and running. Lots of people participating in lots of programs.

Other items Russell shared. October 2nd is the first kids triathlon CS is running. Leslie has worked really hard on the project, there are about 120 kids signed up and everyone is just keeping their fingers crossed for good weather. Some additional comments followed about volunteering amongst the committee.

Lastly, Russell shared that Kathy is coordinating our 2nd Senior Health Fair. Sarah asked what the committee can do to help Kathy on this project. Russell said he would talk to Kathy and let them know.

Pool - Russell mentioned that the pool is on schedule to open on Saturday. There are still a number of small items that will be addressed during the rest of the week but, the pool is full and the water is heating.

In addition, there was some follow up discussion on the pool forum. There was some group discussion about how the event went and what they took out of it. Some discussion around some sort of policy/guideline about determining resource allocation might be helpful. Russell will start to work on such a document and the committee will provide input over the next couple of months.

Meeting Schedule - The group agreed to meet on the following dates during the 16/17 year. Oct 19, Nov 30, Jan 18, Mar 1, Apr 12, May 17 & June 14

Meeting adjourned 7:40 pm