

## Rec. Needs Assessment Committee Meeting Notes – January 22, 2014

- Ms. Denise Stetson calls the meeting to order at 7p
- Present – Denise Stetson, Henry Oppenheimer, Dennis McGinity, Iva Lipton, Larry Casey
- Absent - Ms. Carolyn Richard
- Also in attendance – Maureen Fitzgerald, Rob Rock, Bill Degnan, Richard Millar
- Ms. Stetson gives opening statement
  - Early stages of discussions on a building
    - How big?
    - Who funds it?
    - Who operates it?
    - Best interest of taxpayers
  - Start of the process on how/where the YMCA can fit
  - How the needs and goals can be met
- Ms. Fitzgerald
  - Speaks about the YMCA
    - 1,500 members
    - In Richmond for 13 years
    - 3 Charliho schools (Charlestown, Richmond and Hope Valley) have after school programs
    - Wellness classes
    - Teen nights
    - Pools – teach swimming lessons
  - There are 884 YMCAs across US
  - They belong to national YMCA
    - National does not give the Arcadia YMCA money or dictate programs
      - But the Arcadia YMCA needs to give out scholarships
      - Facilities need to be in good shape
  - Needs to collaborate with another entity if a new YMCA is possible
  - They have contacted developers to look for property
  - It's a benefit to have a YMCA in the community
    - Safe place
    - Increase scholarships
    - People come to socialize
  - The YMCA has been in existence in Westerly for 85 years
  - Acquired Mystic Community Center 10 years ago
- Ms. Stetson
  - Senior Center needs have been explored
  - How have your collaborations with other towns worked?
    - Ms. Fitzgerald
      - There is a lot of flexibility
        - The Town gives the recreation land to the YMCA, the YMCA could fundraiser and build



- We would like land on Rt. 138
  - We have conceptual plans for a building
- Mr. Casey
  - There is a concept to what you want for a building
  - Can we see the plan?
    - Ms. Fitzgerald
      - Of course
- Ms. Fitzgerald
  - We hold annual support campaign and fundraisers
    - \$70,000 a year is raised from Arcadia YMCA
- Mr. Casey
  - It's a great partnership because it affects all ages
- Ms. Lipton
  - If seniors had a wing, would everyone who belongs to the senior ctr. have to join the YMCA?
    - Ms. Fitzgerald
      - Depends on what is part of the negotiations
- Mr. McGinity
  - We want a facility for seniors without having to obtain a membership to the YMCA
- Mr. Oppenheimer
  - We need to have the entire community involved, not just seniors
- Ms. Fitzgerald
  - We employ townspeople which is beneficial to the Town as well
- Ms. Stetson
  - There will be people who won't go to the YMCA whether the Town builds it or not
- Mr. Degnan
  - Senior Center will not be able to achieve autonomy?
    - Ms. Fitzgerald
      - There would be a separate entrance but we could work out details
- Mr. Oppenheimer
  - We have Community/Senior Center now and I don't believe the seniors should have to give up anything they have now
  - We want to increase the quality of life for all Richmond residents
  - I don't want to have residents pay a fee to use facilities
  - Ms. Fitzgerald
    - Everyone would still have access to the outside facilities (b-ball, tennis, etc.) at the school
    - We can provide a better facility than what we have now
- Mr. Casey
  - We are getting ahead of ourselves
  - There is a lot of value that can be achieved with a new YMCA
- Mr. McGinity

- Entire community needs to be thought of
- Mr. Oppenheimer
  - Committee needs to determine what the priorities are for the Town
- Ms. Stetson
  - Where are we getting the most value for the people?
  - For the next meeting, can we get numbers from Ms. Fitzgerald?
- Mr. Oppenheimer
  - We may be putting building before needs
- Ms. Fitzgerald
  - We are looking for:
    - 25 yd. pool, 6 lanes
    - Kitchen, wellness center, locker rooms etc.
    - Collaboration really strengthens the case for federal funds
- Mr. Oppenheimer
  - How serious is the Chariho Cowboys regarding fundraising?
  - The Town Council may not be willing to give the YMCA the land
    - Maybe we could lease it
  - We need to explore other options other than the YMCA
  - We need to cost out in each direction
- Next meeting is Feb. 26
  - Ms. Fitzgerald will send information regarding the YMCA's ideas to build a new facility
- **Ms. Lipton makes motion to adjourn; Mr. Casey seconds**
  - **All ayes**
- **Meeting notes taken by Rob Rock**