



**TOWN OF RICHMOND
COMMUNITY CENTER STUDY COMMITTEE**

February 20, 2019

A regular meeting of the Richmond Community Center Study Committee was held on February 20, 2019. Present were Robin Woodmansee, Erin Liese, Elwood Johnson, Helena Bowen, Richard Millar, Allen Cullion and Nell Carpenter.

A. Call to Order

R. Woodmansee called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Business

1. Presentation by Maureen Fitzgerald, President & CEO of Ocean Community YMCA regarding potential partnership

Maureen Fitzgerald, President & CEO of the Ocean Community YMCA introduced the following individuals from Ocean State YMCA: John Reilly, Karen Allen and Edward Smith.

M. Fitzgerald presented to the committee the goals of the YMCA. She also explained the population and membership of the current Arcadia Branch and the need to expand.

M. Fitzgerald also explained programs provided by the YMCA, financial standings and funding provided in lieu of scholarships. She further explained the expansion of the Westerly Branch and the fund raising effort of the Mystic Naik Branch that was recently renovated in October, 2018.

E. Liese questioned the amount of time it took to raise the funds for the Westerly and Mystic. M. Fitzgerald explained Westerly was a rehab that took 2 years to raise the 5 million needed of the 8 total million and Mystic was 1 ½ years to raise the 7.5 million. She further explained the difficulty of renovating an existing building and further explained both locations have pools. She discussed the benefit of building from the ground up.

M. Fitzgerald expressed interest with a potential partnership with the Town with relocating the Arcadia Branch to the 5-acre parcel owned by the Town along Route 138 and Route 112.

N. Carpenter questioned how many acres was needed for the YMCA. M. Fitzgerald explained 4.5 acres but 5 acres ideally.

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R. Millar stated a potential kitchen wood need Department of Health approval and discussed the need of fire suppression.

Discussion ensued on potential offers of YMCA relocating and the desire to stay in Richmond and ideally on Route 138.

J. Kenyon questioned if the Town donated the land, how that would benefit Richmond. M. Fitzgerald explained the following benefits: the economic benefit of a branch staying in town; the facility would be constructed sooner; possibility of discounted membership; and local job opportunities.

Discussion ensued on square footage needed and floor plan.

R. Woodmansee questioned the benefit to the seniors in the community. M. Fitzgerald explained senior programs and membership scholarship availability.

Discussion ensued on reasons to collaborate.

J. Reilly stated studies show how a YMCA positively effects property values.

Discussion ensued on time frame, conceptual design and meeting space needed.

A. Cullion questioned if they had looked at the Cycle Brothers Building. M. Fitzgerald explained they have done site visits but they need more land.

J. Kenyon stated as a tax payer this sounds like a great opportunity.

M. Fitzgerald questioned the board on the time frame to conduct the study. A. Cullion stated we would like to have a recommendation to the Town Council by June.

M. Fitzgerald will provide the committee with the presentation from tonight and the YMCA Annual Report with information on other partnerships.

Maureen Fitzgerald, John Reilly, Karen Allen and Edward Smith thanked the committee for the time and departed.

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2. Discussion and vote on the following minutes: January 23, 2019, February 6, 2019, February 7, 2019, and February 13, 2019

H. Bowen advised she was in attendance at the North Kingstown and West Greenwich Site Visit.

E. Liese stated she would correct.

A. Cullion moved to accept the corrected minutes of the January 23, 2019, February 6, 2019, February 7, 2019, and February 13, 2019 meetings. E. Johnson seconded. VOTED: Woodmansee - aye, Liese- aye, Johnson - aye, Bowen – aye, Millar –aye, Cullion –aye, Carpenter –aye

3. Discussion and review of community centers in Rhode Island

Discussion ensued on site visits conducted.

E. Johnson stated each location stated they wanted bigger and discussed the wasted space.

Discussion ensued on community programs and cost to seniors.

4. Discussion on questionnaire for residents & organizations

Discussion ensued on questionnaire.

It was suggested the questionnaire could be sent in the tax bill. It was noted that would be too late for this effort as tax bills go out in August.

It was suggested to reach out to other communities on survey. E. Liese stated she would reach out.

5. Discussion and vote on site visit and meeting dates

E. Liese stated she wished to still have a meeting with the Preserve regarding a potential partnership. She further stated she would reach out to Preserve for potential date.

It was noted the next meeting would be March 12, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

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6. Discussion on potential community needs regarding space and use

Discussion ensued on potential uses with the YMCA offer.

N. Carpenter departed at 7:42 P.M.

7. Discussion on potential funding sources

It was noted due to M. Trimmer absence this should be discussed at the next meeting.

A. Cullion questioned the feasibility study funding.

E. Liese stated she would reach out to determine the availability and potential use of the feasibility study funding.

D Adjournment

R. Cullion moved to adjourn at 8:08 P.M.

E. Johnson seconded. VOTED: Woodmansee - aye, Liese- aye, Johnson - aye, Bowen – aye, Millar –aye, Cullion –aye, Carpenter –aye

ATTEST:

**ERIN F. LIESE, CMC
SECRETARY**

Approved April 4, 2019