

Port Washington Adult Community Senior Center Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee October 1, 2015, 4:30 pm

Present: Mary Fran Lepaska, John Jacque, Edie Webb, Sue Bruner (Commission on Aging member), Mayor Tom Mlada, Paul Ehrlich, Tom Murphy, John Sigwart, Catherine Kiener  
Excused: Irene Taylor, Alderman Driscoll, Joe Millonzi

Public comment: Sue Bruner is interested in being part of the committee especially after going on the site visitation tour, September 28.

Minutes: Edie moved to accept Sept. 1 meeting minutes, John Sigwart seconded the motion with following corrections: second paragraph should read "as a whole" and Charlie Imig (last name correction)

Sept 28 site tour comments: Catherine shared written comments from John Sigwart, Edie and Irene. She also added that none of the visited sites had pool tables which are an important part of the Port Senior Center and should stay with a center. John S emphasized Irene's written comment: "Community Center with a Senior Center is a progressive approach to providing Senior Services."

Catherine and John Sigwart shared a brief history on how the center got where it is today.

Important to note that a Senior Center is much different than a Community Center. Study results show that approx. 44% of respondents would support a community center, while those uncertain would need to know what they would be supporting.

John S. suggested that the committee think about a letter to the editor focusing on the survey, study results. he also feels that majority of "players" come together to help create a vision and to begin the process.

What do we want for our community? What is the vision?

Catherine has talked with the VP of Operations for Aurora, and their 15,000 square foot facility on W. Grand adjacent to the Schanen Farm property might be available, so Catherine will invite the VP to our next meeting.

Sue feels that the committee needs to determine where the seniors will be, especially after June 2017 when the lease with extension would be up on the current building. Based on other centers and fundraising campaigns, it may take several years for a new or renovated center to be a reality.

John S has talked with pastor at St. Matthew's Church and they are willing to rent space where their current child care center is located, though would need at least 6 months lead time. Tom Murphy suggested a walk-through of the space at the church.

Mayor Mlada feels the financial solution needs to be driven by the committee and Park and Rec. (Mary Ann Klotz from P&R board attended the site tours and is interested in working together.) Park and Rec director Charlie Imig invited to next meeting. Mayor Tom also felt that the city is excited with a broader approach for a community center. So what is the planning process and how does it begin? Mayor Mlada suggested a recommendation to the Commission on Aging. That a Community Center? be recommended and partner with Park and Rec. then COA would recommend that to the Council who might then form a community committee to work on the project. There is a place for the city in this, suggested Mayor Mlada.

Catherine felt it important to determine a core minimum for a senior center which would be part of a larger community center.

Next meeting: Monday, November 2, 4:30. Catherine will invite Aurora VP of Operations and Charlie Imig, Park and Rec Director.

Meeting adjourned 6:10 pm

Respectfully submitted, Mary Fran Lepaska (for Irene Taylor)