

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Community Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
1/20/21

Attending: Andrea Ernst (AE), Amy Lombardo (AL), Sarah MacColl (SM), and Jill Palmore (JP)

Absent: Jon Mortimer, Terri Patterson and Tara Simopoulos

Meeting opened at 5:38 pm - Kathy Raftice

Draft Minutes from October and November accepted as written. (4 – Yes, 0 – No)

Public Comment - None

Correspondence – None

CECS Updates

Youth

KR shared things are continually changing and moving forward. MPA meeting today discussing on school sports getting back to practice and play despite the “yellow” designation. Trying to bring Community Sports and School Sports to perform at the same level. Our superintendent is in support should they make that decision. AL not sure a decision will be reached today. KR shared it will begin next week (Monday) should it be accepted. It very much impacts what Community Services can offer. Some of our classes have been moved to our building so we can continue to offer. Those not offered right now are; basketball, dance and musical theater. Programs are ready to go should things go that way. Program planning has been handled on a monthly basis due to constant changes. Programmers are working on schedule through April vacation and then for Spring/Summer we will have a brochure as we did in the past. Registration will open on March 28th. We will advertise in the Courier and school websites. From a historical perspective, Covid hit last March 13th so we know what we can offer. Susan Frost is looking into an instructional skating program. She is looking to see if there are times we can reserve the new town skating rink. SM asked who controls the new skating rink. KR provided some background and how it has progressed to this point. Reservations made through Facebook. Public Works has assisted in the maintenance and dedicated parents. SM asking if a fee and how to schedule times. AL does not feel a fee and times available are located through a link on Facebook. Lights are there and skating until 11:00 pm. AL shared this is a temporary rink and group is looking for a permanent facility. AL asked why permanent facility cannot be behind Town Hall. KR felt the permanent facility would be much larger. AL would like to see it as a fundraising tool for boosters and others. AE asked if open at all. AL said it was closed due to cracking and temperature fluctuation. New programs – Ice Fishing on Great Pond has been postponed until pond frozen.

Adults & Seniors

Numbers remain low due to restrictions on space or not interested in returning. Kudos to SM for continuing to offer classes. Spin bikes have been moved to the back of the room downstairs providing additional space. Not ideal however is space. Senior programs have dropped as we have discussed however hopeful as vaccine becomes available things will improve. Looking

into some outdoor walks with fewer numbers on the bus to start things off. Also looking into some offerings outdoor at the Fort. AL asked if people are feeling isolated. KR shared our seniors not interested in ZOOM, want to get out of their houses, watch a movie and have a lunch. There are those more computer savvy however they have shared they are okay until vaccination more readily available. Some are swimming. AL shared SP doing a meal delivery with seniors, and asked if that would be something. KR shared a loyal core group who enjoyed getting together and we will continue to try new things. AL would love to be involved and offered services from "Cape Kindness". Another option people may be willing to donate a meal. SM thought this was a great idea. KR explained gift cards frowned upon but certainly meals would be very welcome. SM volunteered to drive and deliver if needed.

Pool & Fitness

SM asked if Patty found a substitute for our very loyal Water Works class. KR shared that one of the members stepped up and we were able to offer the class. This is a long term loyal group so very happy we could accommodate. Temperature issues with the pool, running low but back up and running warmly and all is good. CMA is a Community Sport and back in the pool with 2 swimmers per lane like our lap swimming. KR and pool staff still working on no shows for lap swims. Fitness Center doing fine, 3 at a time using and that has been increasing which is good.

Fort Williams Update

Beginning preparations for music in the park. 6 Summer Monday evenings. Finalized the sponsor letter and will be sending to local community businesses. 3 locations predetermined within the park. Titled "Sounds by the Sea". Jane Anderson has done a wonderful job with all the sponsor levels. Master Plan Update. 657 respondents to the questionnaire. Findings will be shared on January 28th.

General Issues

Budget season. Revenue down due to COVID and not sure how much to be recovered in 2022 but expectations that it will improve.

Cape Care doing very well. Exposure at the end of last year but back and running strong. Kelly already has a list of those looking for preschool next year and if numbers support we will go with 3 classrooms. Hybrid Care we did receive a grant through the Cares Act and we did receive back \$23k and continuing to work on additional submissions.

SM asked if we will be using tents again this summer. KR and Kelly Phinney have discussed and she is all in favor of continuing camp outside. Pool use will increase.

We did purchase permanent bball hoops for outside in the back parking lot now just need to plan for the installation.

AE totally in favor of outside summer camps. She anticipates as soon as we open parents are going to be excited to register.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 @ 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Raftice