

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Community Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
9/15/21

Attending: Amy Lombardo (AL), Andrea Ernst (AE), Sara MacColl (SM), Jon Mortimer (JM), Jill Palmore (JP), Terri Patterson (TP) and Tara Simopoulos (TS).

Meeting opened at 5:35 pm - Kathy Raftice

Draft Minutes from May 12, 2021 Minutes accepted as written (7 – Yes, 0 – No)

Public Comment – None, **Correspondence** – None

CECS Updates

KR extended a welcome back to all members and shared it was wonderful to see everyone in person. She stated that summer went very well, Kelly Phinney and the entire staff did a fabulous job. Happy all back in school and returning to a new normal. We have openings if anyone knows of someone looking for work. We need aftercare workers. Discussion around the pay. KR explained in some instances, yes, paying minimum wage however if experienced possibility of more. JP shared she feels there are more kids participating in afterschool activities. TP agreed and explained that teams are attending one another's sporting events to cheer on. If anything a positive from the pandemic. KR also explained there is an opening for a Head Lifeguard. Eric French has chosen to change jobs and is now driving a bus in Scarborough. There is also a Youth Program Assistant position open. We need weekend coverage (at least Saturdays) with help during the week. Position is 18 – 20 hours a week. KR shared information on the Cape Community Arena as presented in the Town Council workshop. Discussion about Community Services involvement. Who will manage? What multisport uses are being discussed? KR explained what she could but suggested all read up on the proposal. Many in support of the idea just lots of questions. KR discussed the potential of Halloween functions. Asked committee about their take on whether neighborhoods will be back to trick or treating? SM and other committee members feels what CECS did last year was great but let the kids go back to neighborhood trick or treating. KR asked if team is receiving the newsletters. Jane Anderson working hard to get our information out. All like the format and information being shared.

Youth

KR brought the group up to date on the very successful Fall Saturday programs...over 400 participants. There were large wait lists however huge kudos to Susan Frost who added sessions and increased class sizes to accommodate as many as possible. KR shared the payments to the Boosters issue and the new requirement for each booster group to have a TIN number that is not the school. KR has contacted other towns and many have already made this change. TS concerned we may push boosters away from helping us if they cannot receive the funds. TP shared that they (booster groups she was involved in) thought this was coming. AL shared that boosters already do so much and some working at a loss. TP asked if monies from spring (LAX) are still available. KR explained that for now yes, however going forward we need to pay out monies in the FY earned. All understood. TP will talk to her boosters and get back to

me. KR did explain there are some booster groups already set up this way. Discussion around the topic with suggestions on how to achieve the end result.

One issue this fall has been the dismissal/car line back up. KR explained that on some day's almost 100 kids coming to CECS programs and would get them out of the chaos if we could get them earlier. TP feels CECS programs should come first at dismissal. School working with us and hopefully the time improves.

Adults & Seniors

Adult exercise classes are back up and running in our building and the pool and soon in the Fitness Center. Some still have limited numbers but growing as we can. Masks required entering buildings but not while exercising. Linda Strunk has some new classes that have been very popular; Pickleball, Oola, Shine and 2 new Yoga classes with Annie Ware. SM shared some concerns she has heard around Pickleball. Signs not posted early enough, people would like earlier notification. KR explained that seniors are beginning to come back. Some of the more popular fall offerings are; Apple Device classes, the Oyster Farm & Foliage tour and lunches. Jane Anderson is looking for a location for our Senior Holiday Luncheon if anyone has any ideas please reach out to Jane. Unfortunately Purpoodock is not doing group gatherings.

Pool & Fitness

KR explained the membership cards and doors now locked so we can obtain accurate counts and if going through the process of having cards issued we should be using. She also explained how right after implementing the card system crashed however we are expecting a fix very soon. TS shared her husband's experience and KR apologized and explained while she expects the system to be followed, customer service is a must. KR shared how the classes at the pool are all full and doing wonderfully. SM asked if any concerns expressed with the increased numbers in the pool. KR stated none to date. Saturday swim lessons are full and many requesting private lessons. Andrew Kemp has assigned 2 lifeguards to the task of going through all the requests and trying to meet as many needs as possible.

Cape Care

3 Preschool classrooms are full with a waitlist and we have on average of 50 per day in our Aftercare program. KR again mention need for help 😊

Fort Williams Update

KR provided the Master Plan Update status. Chris Cutter and his staff have been busy at the fort. Pay & Display has been very successful and while I know buses aren't loved they are coming back in small numbers. Sounds by the Sea was a huge success. Lots of positive comments. Only one cancellation due to weather. SM shared one feedback she received was people looking for more on the introductions. TP asked if any one locations was more popular than the others. KR said she felt the Picnic Shelter lawn was the best. More intimate, cozy group feeling.

Meeting adjourned 6:33 pm

Next 3 meetings: Wednesdays, October 13, 2021, November 10 & December 8th @ 5:30 pm,

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Raftice