

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611



Trumbull Community Center Study and Building Committee
Thursday, February 16, 2017
7:00 pm
Long Hill Conference Room, Trumbull Town Hall

Present: Co-Chairmen Joseph Pifko and Daniel Marconi; Committee Members Richard Seaman, Dawn Cantafio, David Preusch, Joseph Costa, Lori Hayes-O'Brien

Also Present: Lynn Arnow, Chief of Staff; Deputy Chief Ron Kirby and Michele Jakab, Director of Human Services

Absent: Jeannine Stauder

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mr. Pifko followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mrs. Cantafio to approve the minutes of January 19, 2017 as written. Seconded by Mr. Seaman and approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Tony D'Aquila, 29 Valley View Road – stated that boards and commissions must provide back-up information. Important information is submitted to the committee that the public does not have access to. Requested the committee go by the Town Charter. He specifically noted that tonight's presentation was not put on the website prior to the meeting. He also stated that other information has been missing from the website. His comments were acknowledged by the Committee and it was stated that tonight's presentation was the first time the Committee was hearing the information. He was requested to provide Mr. Pifko with a specific list of missing information he was referring to.

Motion was made by Mr. Marconi to advance the speakers to before the presentation. Seconded by Mrs. Cantafio and approved unanimously.

Staff Input

Mrs. Jakab spoke regarding the current Senior Center and some of the challenges she faces. She noted

1. Food pantry has difficulties in its current location; difficult for individuals to make deliveries.
2. Building is old/not modern.

3. Trying to bring in seniors – today's 60 year olds are different – looking for more opportunities.
4. The building does not meet the standard of today's centers and we do not want to go backwards.

Mr. Pifko stated the committee will look at all the ideas and try to incorporate them into the design.

Mrs. Jakab also spoke about the need for space, additional storage, privacy for their clients. She noted a special entrance for social services and food pantry clients would be ideal.

Mr. Kirby spoke regarding the police/emergency management side of the project. He noted

1. The police department would be in favor of having another entrance to the valley and is in favor of the new proposed entrance.
2. Forty-five incidents over the years to the valley – access was difficult. An extra pathway would get emergency vehicles in.
3. The amount of people in the valley is increasing.
4. Looking for a garage area to store resources such as the John Deere mowers that are used in the valley. Medical supplies could be stored in the new center whether it be a fixed spot on the property or in the building.
5. Sheltering is a must. The current Senior Center is a Tier 1 center with a relocation potential of under 100 residents. Full generation of the building is required for a shelter.
6. Shower facilities would be convenient but not essential as there are other facilities within the town that offer their showers for this purpose.
7. Shelter population is varied during events and time of day.
8. The proposed location would be ideal for a shelter.
9. There are many requirements associated with a shelter. The architects must be advised so the plan can be incorporated.

Discussion was held regarding the amount of space needed to house emergency equipment such as bikes, mowers and emergency/shelter supplies. This space would need to be heated and have electricity for charging of equipment. Space should be larger than a one car garage to be able to provide ample space.

Sheltering requirements within the building were discussed. The people who need to be sheltered are varied. Showers would be nice but this can be worked out at other facilities. It needs to be a Tier 1 shelter.

Mrs. Jakab and Mr. Kirby left the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Architect's Presentation

Kevin McFarland from Quisenberry Arcari presented to the Committee a proposed threshold design for the proposed Church Hill Road site. The plan is being refined and they are ready to take the next step to designing a building. The program now needs to be finalized; any changes need to come forward. Some design features to be decided would include the type of kitchen that is needed, stair location, storage, flexible floor space, coat/hat space. Athletic spaces such as the gymnasium and pool need to be decided. Mr. Pifko noted the Public Works Committee is working on the pool decision and will be making a recommendation. Should they come back with the decision for no pool, this Committee would need to do an entirely new design.

Kitchen needs were discussed. The Senior Center administration should be consulted as to their increasing membership numbers which could affect their lunch program. They may consider in the future handling this program in-house depending on the kitchen design. Mrs. Arnow noted the grant

received from the State would be for a complete kitchen dedicated to the seniors. It would be a full cooking kitchen. Updates are given to the State approximately every six months on the progress of the design. It was confirmed that the grant can be used in the new facility.

The Committee felt that the overall design was efficient use of space with little wasted space and great view. The design is to replace Priscilla Place and its use as a senior center; it is possible the administration of the Center would manage the building. This is a schedule-driven center with stages of occupancy. Discussion was held regarding the Recreation Department space in the building. It was noted that an Aquatic Director would be necessary if there is a pool component. Mr. Pifko stated Stuart McCarthy should meet with the Committee to review this consideration as he may require recreation administrative space. The Senior Center staff would only occupy the building during certain times of the day so there needs to be some type of administrator on site in the event there are problems.

Security for the building was discussed. Several considerations, including sheltering requirements, were pointed out.

Mr. McFarland noted the design needs to be refined with input from the Committee. He suggested that the Committee meet more often to accomplish this goal.

The following was presented to Mr. McFarland:

1. Looking for a scheme without a pool in the event this is the decision. They need to make a design so that people can see what the facility would look like without a pool component. Square footage needs to be included.
2. Emergency management storage needs to be addressed whether a separate building or space within the confines of the center.
3. Need a design with a price.

Mr. Preusch asked if the Public Works Committee was reporting to the Building Committee or the Town Council. No specific direction has been decided. It was noted that their decision could be received within the next month or two. Their recommendation would lead to a process to move forward. However, there are other areas of the program to be worked on until this decision is received. Mr. Preusch thought perhaps the design without a pool component may influence the decision of the committee. There is a cost associated with a pool and by having this information; they can make an informed decision. It was noted that there definitely is interest in a public pool.

Cost of the program was discussed. However, additional information would be required in order to refine the cost.

It was noted that when the Committee has a program and concept design, the Town Council will present it to the public for their input. When building designs are done, then the project can move forward with meetings and show them in a public forum. Mr. McFarland was requested to have the additional design without a pool component ready for presentation in two weeks.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be on March 2, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Long Hill Conference Room. The regular March meeting will be held on March 16 at 7:00 pm in the Long Hill Conference Room.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Costa, seconded by Mr. Preusch, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

The Center at Priscilla Place
Senior Center serving adults age 55+

- **Current Membership:** 777
 - **Trumbull Residents:** 81%
 - **Average Age:** 73
 - * only 49% of members have registered with a DOB
- Center Use July 2016-January 2017: 7 months**
 - Exercise: 6,483 visits by members
 - Art Classes: 739 visits
 - Congregate Lunch: 3,150 meals served
 - Programs (games, knit, slim approach, salon, lectures): 4,529 visits

We are outgrowing our facility

We lack parking, room availability and large function rooms to host our programs.

- All exercise programs are cancelled when we host parties. (can not offer physical activity that day).
- Parties have a current capacity of 90. An average of 150 would like participate. Luncheons are waitlisted.
- Lack of classroom space. Educational programs are lacking due to space constraints.
- Classrooms are at a maximum occupancy of 40 people, individuals are waitlisted. To host a larger lecture we would need to cancel all exercise for the day.
- The building is a maze. Even with new signage, staff find themselves walking members around the building. Individuals with disabilities find it difficult to navigate and manage the traveling distance.
- Parking conflicts. We lost 50 potential new members who wanted to participate twice a week but we could not accommodate them because of lack of parking space. Parking complaints daily.
- The Wellness Nurse's office is not visible and does not offer discretion to our members.
- The Social Service's office does not offer discretion to clients as it is a shared space.
- Lack of office space/volunteer reception desk. We lack a reception desk for volunteers to create a barrier between staff and members. Volunteers could greet members, take phone calls, and help with program sign ups.
- No reception area for social opportunities and congregating.

Director's Interests:

- **How do senior centers remain relevant?**
- **How do we attract this new generation with a different set of demands before they find other places to connect, engage, and stay healthy?**
- **How do we continue to serve the isolated who suffer the effects of depression, loneliness and inactivity that senior centers were originally established to address? .**

