

Bennington Recreation Center Transition Committee Meeting, March 27, 2019: 3:30 PM – 5:20 PM

Attendees: Jessica Rumlow, Associate Director/Interim Bennington Recreation Center Director, Morgan Flynn/Aquatics Program Manager,(YMCA); Taylor Haynes/Health & Wellness Director (YMCA), Chris Barbagallo/Assistant to the Director, Rec Center, Dan Monks/ Town of Bennington Assistant Town Manager; Stuart Hurd/Town of Bennington Town Manager; Shannon Barsotti/ Town of Bennington Community Development Director, Beth Antognioni/ Town of Bennington, Community Development; Jeannie Jenkins/Bennington Select Board, Donald Campbell/Bennington Select Board, Greg Fellei/Master's Swim Group, Wilmington Resident, Nicole Goswami/Marauders, Betsy Rathbun-Gunn/UCS/Head Start, Eleanor Mattison/Senior Center Volunteer, Laura Boudreau/SVSU Schools, Al Bashevkin/Town Resident/Rec Center user, Chris Poggi-Town Resident/Rec Center User; Sarah Callanan/Bennington Marauders Board President, Andrea Malinowski/RiseVT, and Beth Wallace/Bennington County Head Start/Early Head Start.

Flyers attached: Restructure, Youth Development, Healthy Living Senior Center, Social Responsibility, and Camp Green Mountain.

Vision for YMCA/Rec Ctr Partnership	Healthy Living Recreation Center Goals	Challenges	Next Steps
Bridging gap between Senior Center and Rec Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Functional Strength Training Room -Increased Cardio Machines -Fitness on Demand -Silver Sneakers -Summer Fitness Classes -More Member Based Swim Scheduled - Tai Chi Training - Adult Kick Ball -Livestrong at the Y 	Anxiety about what changes will mean for Marauders; will out of town Marauders members get local member rate? Marauders having to pay a fee for use of pool would cripple the program	Marauders and Rec Center will schedule meeting to negotiate future agreements
Local leadership	Opportunities	Worries about increased membership costs: scholarship stigma	Rebranding Senior Center: perhaps "Masters Center"?
Job training for youth	EMPLOYERS - Recruiting, Benefits - Corporate Membership?	Need for clear, transparent communication; opinions of current members heard?	Jessie and Rec Ctr staff will provide quarterly updates at Select Board meetings beginning in April
Opportunities for kids that promote health and wellness that are accessible	Lap swim - now 13 and up and more accessible during open hours	Worries about how seniors (particularly those on fixed incomes) will be impacted	Y Ambassadors

COMMUNITY center	Kickball League during Kids Night Out	Ventilation in basement	Integrate Senior Center Newsletter with Community Center Newsletter
Increased opportunity for low-income residents, who need improved health outcomes (ACE's, statistically)	Tennis courts - partnership w/MAUHS	Concerns about daily rate	June Chamber Mixer to appeal to employers?
RiseVT partnership	Volleyball at Willow Park?	Building revenue	Potential UCS Partnership
Increased outdoor recreation	Tech classes for seniors (partner with high school class?)	Bridge the gap between Rec Center and Senior Center, would like fee schedule maintained	Town and Y Staff will develop unified message re: membership costs
	Y Ambassadors	improve offerings at the Senior Center	
	Distribute and promote Senior Center Newsletter	How do we communicate transition news with the public	Senior Center is for persons 50+ - HR should tout this opportunity for new hires and current employees
	Improve accessibility to senior center for working seniors, not just retired seniors	Unknown factor - people are not sure what the vision is, there is no clarity, need to have better communication to the community and with the Rec Center/Senior Center users	Multiple Modes of Communication: Transition Newsletter: FAQ's, Bulletin Board, Facebook; Town of Bennington website; CAT TV, open communication
	21st Century Grant: Afterschool, afterschool swim lessons	underserving lower income residents	Build on Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
	Walk to the Rec Center/1st Wed. each month		need to address daily fee
	Social connections for current members and new members		work on progressive membership, need to keep commitment to making affordable to residents
	Offer Adult Swim Lessons		

CAMP

Lunch provided at camp

Flexible swim lesson hours over the summer

Town is subsidizing \$29 per child for camp = \$80 out of pocket

Additional programming 5pm to 6pm in evening

Capacity: 50-60 kids

Tremendous increase in low income students

Grades 6-8 Leaders in Training

STEAM

Swim lessons during camp

7am to 5pm

Rec membership not required

Next meeting will be June 26, 2019 at 3:30 p.m., place to be announced.

Town of Bennington

Stuart stated that Town will do best to continue to subsidize membership costs mid-long term

"Committed to keeping affordable for residents"