

**Westside Community Center Working Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 15, 2023**

**Members Present:** Mary Tauras, Tena Jelenik, Liz Lopez Vaughan, Judy McKay-Harbert, Kathy Perry, Justin Trudeau

**Parks Board Liaisons Absent:** Greg Thornton

**Staff Present:** Mark Snow, Jamie Bequette, Felicia Barnhart, Kim King, Anna White

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Committee Chair Justin Trudeau brought the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**Agenda Preview**

Committee Chair Justin Trudeau gave a preview of the agenda for the meeting.

**Announcements**

Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, announced that there would be an updated group photo taken next meeting.

**Citizen Discussion**

Rich Lins, citizen, read the following statement to the Committee: "Mission Statement: The Westside Community Center Working Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board in matters pertaining to the Westside Community Center's building usage and provision of programs and services. The Working Committee serves to represent interests of the westside community and will advocate for a balance... activities... Has The Westside Working Committee WWC requested P&R to generate a plan for equitable full funding for WCC? Achieving full funding was a central piece of the citizens engagement process. Has the WWC pursued the proposition that a portion of the revenue earned at WCC should stay at WCC and not just go entirely to Colorado Springs General funds? I believe this was discussed and given tentative support by Ryan Trujillo, Deputy Chief of Staff during the citizens engagement process. The transfer of the TRP funding, staff and location to WCC, which occurred without citizens input, has precluded developing a full schedule of activities open to all during the last year and left staff dedicated for the WCC with no ability to schedule activities from 3 to 5 pm for the last several months. The WWC could vote to support a motion recommending that WCC staff schedules be flexed so that the center could be open in the evening hours. Pursuit of these ideas could simply take the form of passing a motion by the WWC. First, that a portion of funds raised at WCC should stay at WCC. Second, that P&R generate plans for equitable full funding for WCC. These two ideas were central recommendations of the citizens engagement project process. Third, by

passing a motion recommending that WCC staff schedules be flexed so that the center could be open in the evening hours. Please be our strong advocates. Has the WWC requested the names of the activity liaisons? Once receiving them each of the board members could undertake to be a liaison to one of the activities. Updates to the board member could be handled by a simple phone call or a quick email. I believe the rationale for doing this is obvious. I do appreciate that the WWC conducted an open house recently. I believe the community would have been better served by the WWC if in their approval process of various proposals, they had given an indication of their level of support for each proposal rather than just a thumbs up thumbs down. It is my understanding that the Funky Little Theater has withdrawn their proposal for activities at the Westside Community Center. I believe that WWC should be informed of the reasons the FLT stated for their withdrawal. I am requesting that the WWC request that the staff reports you receive be posted on the bulletin board here at the WCC? I want to thank Jamie for agreeing to post an activity schedule time change for a brief period prior to implementation. This will allow participants to adjust to the new schedule. I request the WWC who receives a monthly report on citizen participation at each committee meeting publicly review this report and allow for brief citizen commentary.”

**Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2023 meeting minutes.**

**Motion – To approve the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes with proposed changes.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Justin Trudeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mary Tauras, Approved, Unanimously.

**Committee Announcements**

**Meeting Norms**

Committee Chair Justin Trudeau took a moment to comment on meeting norms. First, he stated that the aim of the meeting agenda is to stay within the two hour timeframe, if possible, though it is understandable that the meetings can run longer due to content. Mr. Trudeau asked that keeping questions on topic will help to keep meetings succinct. He reminded other Committee members that they can get up to use the restroom, take a phone call, etc. as needed. Additionally, he reminded Committee members that if they need to leave, they can also do so without feeling like they have to announce it.

**Action Items**

**Proposals for Programs/Services**

*Drive Clean – Sonja Meinstma*

Sonja Meinstma, citizen, provided a brief background on her service and while it would be a suitable fit for programming at the Center.

**Motion: To recommend the Drive Clean proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.**

1st – Mary Tauras, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kathy Perry, Approved, Unanimously.

*Intermediate Pickleball – Jerry Harkins*

Jerry Harkins, citizen, provided a brief background on his program and why it would be a suitable fit for programming and services at the Center.

Multiple Committee members stated that they would support this proposal if Jerry would be willing to work with the current pickleball programming in place to find a time for his class, so programs are not being duplicated. Jamie Bequette stated that she would work with both groups. Mr. Harkins stated that he would be happy to work with the current group.

**Motion: To recommend the Intermediate Pickleball proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Justin Trudeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tena Jelenik, Approved, Unanimously.

*Music Classes – Charles (Chuck) Lucas*

Charles Lucas, citizen, provided a brief background on his program and why it would be a suitable fit for programming and services at the Center.

**Motion: To recommend the Music Classes proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Kathy Perry, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tena Jelenik, Approved, Unanimously.

*Self-Care Arts/Walking Wellness – Baguazhang with Sifu – Martin Kelly*

Martin Kelly, citizen, provided a brief background and demonstration of his program, and why it would be a suitable fit for programming and services at the Center.

**Motion: To recommend the Self-Care Arts/Walking Wellness – Baguazhang with Sifu proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Tena Jelenik, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kathy Perry, Approved, Unanimously.

*Elevate COS Twirlers – Jessica Mamula*

Jessica Mamula, citizen, was not present at the time of the meeting, but multiple Committee members offered background information about her program.

**Motion: To recommend the Kiwanis Club of Colorado Springs proposal for potential implementation at the Westside Community Center.**

1<sup>st</sup> – Justin Trudeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kathy Perry, Approved, Unanimously.

### **Committee Business**

#### **New Working Committee Member Recruitment/Process**

Mark Snow, Community Recreation Manager, informed the Committee that Becky Fredell had resigned after the previous meeting, meaning there are three open positions on the Committee. Mark detailed the next steps in the recruitment process and timeline.

#### **Communications Subcommittee**

As discussed at the previous meeting, multiple Committee members felt that there could be improvements in outreach. Committee members Tena Jelenik and Mary Tauras have volunteered to operate a subcommittee focused on outreach. They will be identifying goals and objectives, as well as promoting the Center and available programs and services. They plan to meet monthly to discuss, and Jamie Bequette offered to be a part of the meetings as well. This meeting will take place on the Friday of the week after the meeting. Additionally, this will remain a standing item on future agendas for updates.

#### **Community Garden Partnership**

Committee Vice Chair Liz Lopez Vaughan informed the Committee that she intends to sponsor at least two of the beds in the community garden. Currently, only 14 beds have been reserved. A suggestion from the Committee was to work with local school districts to help get students involved for support, as well as seeing if schools would sponsor some of the beds. Ms. Lopez Vaughan stated that she would work on coordinating with the school districts. Committee Chair Justin Trudeau said he would also help to sponsor a bed.

#### **Westside Community Center Meet and Greet**

The next Westside Community Center Meet and Greet will take place on August 8, from 5:30 to 7:30. Committee members Tena Jelenik and Mary Tauras will help with the outreach. A suggestion was made to invite program providers to participate.

### **Staff Updates**

#### **Westside Community Center Facility Operations – Part-Time Maintenance Staff Position Posting; Volunteers; Recommended Proposal Status; Timing of Program Implementation; Scheduler Staff – Justin Kohl; Program Evaluations**

Jamie Bequette, Program Administrator, Felicia Barnhart, Certified Recreation Therapist, and Mark Snow, Community Recreation Manager, provided the following updates to the Committee:

- There is a part-time maintenance position posting. The time frame for this position is a six month seasonal position.
- Justin Kohl was introduced as the new Scheduler and will be focused on scheduling across the community centers. Additionally, Justin will be taking the lead on the new scheduling software.
- The link for volunteer registration is on the webpage. Staff is trying to fill volunteer positions.
- Recently, a visiting ministry group helped to clean up the community garden as well as some maintenance around the Center.
- Jamie reviewed how scheduling is working for programs that are in place currently at the Center. Jamie detailed which programs are seeing success and the few that might need to be implemented at another time or could use some support. Jamie also informed the Committee of updated schedules.
- The contracts for the six potential leased spaces are under review with Real Estate Services. These leases have standard agreements.
- There will be a petting zoo at the Center tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Jamie is working on processing program evaluations.
- There have been a few changes with program implementation on the staff side. Jamie will be asking for an intake form ahead of Committee review. This will make implementation move faster.

#### **Westside Community Center Facility Enhancements – City Network; Hughes Hall Floor**

Mark Snow, Community Recreation Manager, informed the Committee of the following enhancements:

- The Center is now on the City network.
- The floors in Hughes Hall have just been refinished and look great.

### **Presentation Items**

There were no presentation items on this agenda.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion – Move to adjourn the Westside Community Center Working Committee meeting at 4:05 p.m.**

1<sup>st</sup>- Justin Trudeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Judy McKay Harbert, Approved, Unanimously.