



MARGIE PIZZUTI & NICK LASHUTKA UA COMMUNITY CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

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Kip Greenhill introduced today's program.

Margie Pizzuti and **Nick Lashutka** were with us today to discuss the status of the ongoing Upper Arlington Community Center Feasibility Study.

Kip noted that the issues is being revisited despite the fact that residents have turned the idea down several times in the past. It is being revisited because 81% of the city's residents were supportive of a feasibility study when they were asked about it two years ago in a comprehensive Recreation and Parks planning process. An independent citizens task force was formed as a result. The task force is independent of city government, driven by residents, and charged with obtaining extensive community input. The basic questions are: Do residents see a need for a community center? Do they want a community center? Would they support a community center?

Margie and Nick are leaders of the citizens task force. They updated us on the status of Phase I – which focused on community outreach to determine the level of need and desire for a center. If, in fact, the results of the Phase I work indicate a need and desire for a community center Phase II will delve into programming, location and other such

details. Margie and Nick shared a slide presentation highlighting the Phase I findings to date.

The task force has been working through three subcommittees: Facilities and Partnerships, Community Engagement and a Financial subcommittee. In addition, a consultant was engaged to help with evaluating in information received during the Phase I process.

A review of existing facilities and programs including a review of options for replacement of the current senior center was undertaken. Other indoor recreation and event center facilities, outside of the Upper Arlington area, were also reviewed. Further, prospective capital and operating cost scenarios were evaluated. Options for public/private partnerships were also reviewed. All of these issues were incorporated into the important community outreach initiatives which formed the basis for the work of the task force.

Community outreach needed to be aggressive and thorough. Specific audience groups and typical community gathering locations were targeted. A consulting team was assembled to provide a thorough and professional evaluation of the information obtained. Williams Architects was retained to lead the consulting team. A deep analysis of benchmark communities and facilities was part of the process.

Outreach activities included 27 interviews with 41 stakeholders in areas such as recreation, community groups, arts and culture, businesses and adaptive sports. These discussions provided over 30 hours of input. A dozen pop-up events were held which

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings



GREETERS

August 4

N/A

August 11

N/A

August 18

Steve Zid

Ua Chamberlain

REGISTRATION DESK

August 4

N/A

August 11

N/A

August 18

Dick Stone

Jeanine Hummer

CALENDAR

August 4 - ZOOM

Katie White,

Age-Friendly Columbus

Host: Micheal O'Sullivan

August 11 - ZOOM

Scott Gaines,

COO – Cover My Meds

Host: Matt Hare

August 18 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Tim May, Ohio State

Football Preview

Host: Wayne Harer

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

AUGUST 4th
ZOOM ONLY

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



MARGIE PIZZUTI & NICK LASHUTKA

UA COMMUNITY CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY



involved 460 residents. There were 632 completed surveys which exceeded the goal of 400 completed surveys. There were also dedicated outreach events targeted to seniors. The survey confidence level was 90%.

Among the top desired activities mentioned in the outreach process were exercise and fitness (80%), classes (67%) and aquatics (62%).

The question of financial support for a community center was addressed. With no tax increase 79% of respondents would support a community center while 13% would not. The support level drops to 54% if a tax increase was involved while 33% would be opposed. This majority of support with a tax increase is seen as significant.

Complete details about the results of the outreach process are available on the city's website and include many other items such as location options and alternative funding options (sponsorships and user fees, for example).

The data collected to date include a wide range of items which might be considered a community "wish list" if community center was developed. The list includes items such as child care, indoor and perhaps outdoor athletics, aquatics, fitness facilities and classes, senior activities, gaming, indoor running/walking track and common/meet-

ing space. A dedicated space for seniors is a priority item. Overall, certain core activities appear most prominently. Flexible gym space, aquatics, health and fitness, multi-use space, youth activities and senior activities seem to rise to the top. An underlying tenet is that these activities and any others which might be associated with a potential community center must be attractive and available to everyone. Ideally, a community center proposal would offer something appealing to every demographic group in the community.

The next step is a move to Phase II which is scheduled to begin in August and conclude by the end of this year or early in 2021. The focus will be on the work of the facilities and partnership subcommittee and the financial component subcommittee.

During this phase the task force will look at things such as location options, preliminary programming, preliminary construction and operations costs, community engagement issues, the development of a business plan and proforma and the preparation of a final report and recommendations. Another statistically valid community survey will be conducted as this phase moves forward. This will help assure that the task force is still on track with what the community wants.

A very important final question is how would we operate, and pay to operate, a community center on an ongoing basis.

The final report will ultimately be provided to city council.



CLICK HERE to see the Community Center Task Force PowerPoint presentation from this weeks meeting.

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THE MEETING



President **Debbie Johnson** opened the meeting and asked **John Ness** to offer the Invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visiting Rotarian **Steve Heiser** was introduced. **Herb Gillen** introduced his guest **Chris Guglielmi**.

Dave Dewey recognized two Paul Harris Fellow recipients. **Bill Cloyd** was recognized for his Paul Harris Fellow +3 and **Homer Mincey** was recognized for his Paul Harris Fellow +8.

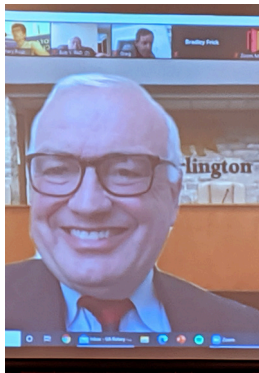
NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



District Governor **Steve Heiser** announced the August 1 Summer Leadership Program.

Joe Valentino announced that the annual fundraiser will now be entirely virtual. It will run from August 14 until through August 25. He noted that some vendors have donated gift guards for the event once they were told they were being purchased for a Rotary fundraiser. Previous sponsors have been contacted by Matt Rule and are encouraged to participate again. Sponsorship will mean an online presence in UA Rotary for the year.

Barri Jones thanked Rotarians who stepped up to fill all of the open slots for Meals On Wheels. She also announced that Senior Service Day details will be distributed soon. (In fact, they were distributed on the afternoon of July 28 by email to all club members. We will be helping ten senior households so we need ten Rotarians and their families to help out. It's a good opportunity for high school students make a contribution to the community and to accumulate service hours.



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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DEBBIE JOHNSON REGARDING CHANGES TO UPCOMING ROTARY MEETINGS

Leading in these times has been challenging. As things change, sometimes daily, it's important that we stay flexible in how we meet and do our service work.

After the meeting on Tuesday, July 28, Milt, Joe and I met to discuss the hybrid meeting issue. Our in-person attendance has been lower than our minimum number of meals required at the venue and we cannot financially continue this pattern. Also, with the reports that the virus is spreading, we understand why members are choosing not to attend right now.

Many options were discussed and the recommendation for the foreseeable future is to hold some of our meetings online only via Zoom while trying to have at least one or two in-person and online (hybrid) meetings per month. We will also begin registration again with commitments needed by Sunday at noon before the meeting. Email communication will be sent to you.

Thus, our meeting on August 4th (featuring Katie White of Age Friendly Columbus) and August 11th (featuring Scott Gaines of CoverMyMeds) will be held via Zoom only. There will be no in-person meetings for these dates.

Our meeting on August 18 will include crowd pleaser Tim May discussing the upcoming football season and will be held at Scioto Country Club and via Zoom (hybrid). If you feel that you are able to attend in-person, please do so. If not, you may join us via Zoom for this always enjoyable program. But I digress...

We've set aside the August 25th meeting to focus on our Fundraiser and the silent auction. This meeting will be held at Scioto and via Zoom (hybrid) and will be led by Joe Valentino. We will be honoring our Veterans at this time.

I want to apologize to the members for the technical difficulties we've experienced at Scioto with the Zoom option. The WIFI signals have been insufficient and I promise we will work to improve it before our next in-person meeting on August 18. We appreciate your patience.

We will continue to communicate often to keep you informed. As I mentioned at the beginning, it's important to remain flexible during these ever-changing times.