

# **SOUTH WINDSOR BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL)**

**MINUTES  
SPRENKEL ROOM**

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**REGULAR MEETING  
August 13, 2018**

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## **1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:36 pm.

## **2. Roll Call**

### **Members Present**

Matthew Galligan, Chairperson/Town Manager (*via phone*)  
Vanessa Perry, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Human Resources  
Raymond Favreau, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Shelby Kosa, Recreation Supervisor/Director of 4<sup>th</sup> R Program  
Tiffany Caouette, Principal of Pleasant Valley Elementary School/Superintendent's Designee  
Anthony Leone, Resident/Parent  
Karen Lydecker, Resident/Parent  
Craig Zimmerman, Board of Education  
Audrey Delnicki, Town Council  
Andrew Paterna, Town Council (*arrived 5:53 pm*)

### **Members Absent**

Beth Esstman, Board of Education

### **Guests Present**

Janice Snyder, Town Councilor  
Mary Justine Hockenberry, Town Councilor  
Dan Edwards, Resident/Parent

## **3. Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2018, June 27, 2018, and July 12, 2018**

Mr. Zimmerman made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Caouette seconded the motion. Mr. Favreau requested that a minor amendment be made to the July 12 minutes to correct a clerical error. The amendment was accepted, and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **4. New Business**

### ***General Discussion and Updates***

Ms. Kosa reported on a survey that was given to the families on the 4<sup>th</sup> R waitlist to determine what their current plan is for before and after school care for the 2018-2019 school year. The results of the survey are attached in **Exhibit A**.

The YMCA program at the Temple Beth Hillel Synagogue held an open house on August 6, 2018, at which time they began taking registration. The program currently has 6 staff members, so they are able to care for up to 60 children. Mr. Zimmerman said that the YMCA should be clearer in their advertising about who is providing transportation, as there was some confusion in the community on whether the Town or the YMCA is paying for bussing. The YMCA will be providing transportation. Mr. Zimmerman also asked if the YMCA plans to offer service to the Eli Terry district. Ms. Lydecker said that at the open house she was told that if the program got

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interest from 10 or more parents in the district, the YMCA would look into providing transportation for that area. Mr. Favreau said that an invitation was not initially sent to anyone in the Eli Terry district because the district does not currently have a 4<sup>th</sup> R waitlist.

Mr. Galligan said that the Fire Marshal and the Building Official have visited the YMCA program site at the Synagogue. There were some recommendations for improvement made by the Fire Marshal, and they are being addressed by the Synagogue and the YMCA. Also, the Planning and Zoning Commission will be holding a special meeting for the YMCA program on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Galligan added that the Avery Street Church is not ready to run a childcare program yet, but they are continuing to work through the process.

Mr. Leone said that there should still be a short-term solution provided for the parents on the waitlist who do not yet have care plans for the school year. Mr. Galligan said that the YMCA program at the Synagogue has had a much faster turnaround than originally expected, so there may not be a need for a short-term solution. Mr. Favreau said that the program could potentially be ready as soon as mid-September.

Mr. Edwards asked if it is really the Town's concern to provide a short-term solution for the people who do not currently have a care option outside of 4<sup>th</sup> R. There are options already being put in place with the YMCA programs. Mr. Leone said that the Committee was charged with finding a short-term as well as a long-term solution for the childcare issue. Mr. Galligan said that it is unlikely that a temporary solution can be implemented before the YMCA is up and running. He also expressed concern that it would be confusing to move families from program to program. Councilor Paterna said that if the YMCA program is up and running as quickly as expected, there would only be a small window of time where people would be without care. Ms. Lydecker said that the YMCA seems confident that the program will be ready prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>. However, they cannot guarantee an earlier date. Mr. Favreau said that the gap of time between the start of the school year and the start of the YMCA program is so small that it is not worth trying to set up a temporary solution.

The Committee discussed the upcoming Planning and Zoning Commission special meeting for the YMCA program. The meeting will be held on August 28<sup>th</sup>, and will include both a mandatory public hearing and the Commission's vote for approval. The public hearing must be held because the use of the Synagogue is being changed to accommodate childcare, and the residents of the area must be notified.

Ms. Perry asked if any Town staff members would be attending the public hearing to give support, as there is a possibility that neighbors of the Synagogue will not approve of the plan. Mr. Galligan said that he plans to attend. It was suggested by a few Committee members that people who are supportive of the program should be notified of the hearing so that they may attend and show support.

Mr. Leone asked if there have been changes in the waitlist numbers since the YMCA program open house. Ms. Kosa said that none of the parents have said that they are going to a different program. Any changes in the waitlist have been for other reasons.

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Ms. Caouette said that there have been responses from 15 paraprofessionals who are interested in working for the 4<sup>th</sup> R program. Some were willing to work part-time temporarily until the new programs are up and running. Others are willing to work permanently for the program. Most wanted at least a \$15/hour starting salary.

Mr. Leone asked what would be done if the 4<sup>th</sup> R does not have enough staff by the beginning of the school year. Ms. Kosa said that enough people have been hired to staff the program for its current registration list. They are able to maintain status quo.

Councilor Paterna asked for an update on the Mother Goose Childcare Center. Mr. Galligan said that there are companies interested in obtaining the facility. Specific details have not yet been released.

Councilor Hockenberry asked when the Committee ends its term. A member said that it ends in 2019. Mr. Galligan said that the Committee should continue to meet throughout its term to make sure that the currently planned programs are successful, and to assess the need for additional programs in the future. New housing developments are being built and more young families may be moving into South Windsor. The Committee needs to come up with more permanent solutions.

Mr. Edwards said that parents who are currently in the 4<sup>th</sup> R program want to be sure that the program does not change. He suggested that a representative of this group of parents be added to the Committee. Councilor Paterna said that there have been criticisms that the Committee is too large already. He feels that Mr. Favreau and Ms. Kosa are good representatives of the 4<sup>th</sup> R program. Ms. Lydecker said that she can act as a representative as well, as she has received a registration slot in the program for her children and is no longer on the waitlist. Mr. Galligan said that there is no intention to change the 4<sup>th</sup> R program. Councilor Paterna said that the original charge of the Committee was to find new solutions for childcare, not to evaluate or expand the 4<sup>th</sup> R program. Mr. Favreau said he could send word to parents to reassure them that the program will not be changing. .

Mr. Leone asked if the consultant mentioned by the Superintendent in the last meeting of this Committee would be attending any meetings in the future. Mr. Galligan said that there has been a difference of opinion between himself and the Superintendent. He feels that there is no need to bring in this consultant, as the Committee is not charged with expanding the 4<sup>th</sup> R program. Mr. Zimmerman said that the consultant was recommended for a number of reasons, but he agreed that the discussion should be between the Superintendent and Mr. Galligan.

Mr. Leone asked what should be done if the YMCA program at the Synagogue is delayed. Mr. Galligan said that he and his staff will continue to monitor the progress of the program. If something occurs to delay the program, a meeting of the Committee will be called as soon as possible.

Councilor Hockenberry suggested that parents who are placed on the 4<sup>th</sup> R waitlist in the future should be given information about other care options, such as the YMCA program. Ms. Kosa said that the Recreation Department directs parents on the waitlist to [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org). The

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website maintains a list of accredited childcare centers. Once the YMCA program at the Synagogue is up and running, it will be listed on the website.

**5. Adjournment**

Mr. Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Leone seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Samara Haddock  
Recording Secretary