

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

**MINUTES  
SPRENKEL ROOM**

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TOWN HALL**

**REGULAR MEETING  
January 10, 2019**

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:34 pm.

## **2. Roll Call**

### **Members Present**

Tiffany Caouette, Principal of Pleasant Valley Elementary School/Superintendent's Designee  
Raymond Favreau, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Matthew Galligan, Chairperson/Town Manager  
Shelby Kosa, Recreation Supervisor/Director of 4<sup>th</sup> R Program  
Anthony Leone, Resident/Parent  
Karen Lydecker, Town Council  
Jason Meade, Resident/Parent  
Vanessa Perry, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Human Resources

### **Members Absent**

Audrey Delnicki, Town Council

### **Guests Present**

Gail Livingstone, YWCA  
Jill Marini, YWCA  
Maureen Sheridan, YWCA

## **3. Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2018**

Mr. Leone made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Galligan seconded the motion. There was discussion of a possible correction, but it has since been determined to be unnecessary. The motion was approved unanimously, with Mr. Meade abstaining.

## **4. New Business**

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

Mr. Galligan asked for an update on the 4<sup>th</sup> R program. Ms. Kosa reported that there has continued to be movement on the waitlist, with a few withdrawals allowing waitlisted families into the program. There are a few spots open at each school in the morning program, but all four schools are full for the afternoon program. As of the time of this meeting, there were the following waitlist numbers. Eli Terry does not have a waitlist. Orchard Hill's waitlist has 23 in the morning, 16 in the afternoon. Philip R. Smith's waitlist has none in the morning, 14 in the afternoon. Pleasant Valley's waitlist has 16 in the morning, 45 in the afternoon. Ms. Kosa said that the waitlist movement is slow, but that it is consistent with previous years.

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Mr. Galligan asked for an update on the Avery Street Church program. Mr. Favreau has spoken to Reverend Poolman since the last Committee meeting. The Church is still very interested in running a program, but they are not ready. The congregation needs a memorandum of understanding (MOU) from the YMCA before they will have a vote. The YMCA is proceeding with caution after what occurred at the Temple Beth Hillel site. There is no confirmed start date at this time. The Avery Street Church is in a very different space and location than the Temple, and there is less space currently available for the program. The YMCA is considering the possibility of opening an additional site elsewhere in order to better meet childcare needs in Town. Councilor Lydecker asked if the YMCA was still taking children to their Vernon facility. Ms. Kosa said that they are not. They only had five families participating, so it was not cost-effective to continue bussing children from South Windsor to Vernon. The families were offered the option to go to the YWCA program at the former Mother Goose facility instead.

There were three representatives from the YWCA program in attendance at the meeting, and they gave an update on their progress. They are trying to figure out the most cost-effective way to incorporate transportation into their program. They have spoken with the Board of Education, but were unable to come to an agreement. The program currently has 30 before and after school care slots available for the Orchard Hill district. They cannot provide service to out of district families until transportation is resolved. The YWCA is willing to share cost on bussing, as taking on full cost would increase prices for participating families. The Committee discussed logistics of bussing and bus routes. The YWCA is also researching the possibility of purchasing their own transportation van.

Mr. Galligan has been working with two businesses to bring childcare options into Town. The names of both companies cannot be disclosed until their deals are finalized.

One business has signed an agreement with Evergreen Walk to build a 10,000 square foot facility with an additional 5,000 sq. ft. outdoor play area. They are hoping to be up and running by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

The other business is planning a 16,000 sq. ft. facility on Pleasant Valley Road/Ellington Road. They would offer a preschool program as well as a before and after school care program. This business is also hoping to be open by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Mr. Galligan would like to offer this business a tax abatement to facilitate their development.

Both businesses will be looking into transportation options. They will send Mr. Galligan additional information on their programs once the deals are finalized.

The Committee discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> R program. Staffing and space issues were reviewed. The program continues to have difficulty with staffing, due to the transient nature of the candidate pool. The program is also maxed out for space. There is no room for expansion. Enrollment in the schools is increasing as new families move into Town, so the 4<sup>th</sup> R program will continue to have a waitlist. The minimum wage increase legislation may also affect staffing, as wages will become more of an expense to the program.

The Committee discussed the new enrollment period for 4<sup>th</sup> R, which is coming up in late March or early April. The families that are already enrolled in the program can remain there if they so choose. The waitlist will be reset with the new enrollment period, in order to re-determine need and to give new families a chance.

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Mr. Galligan will meet with the YWCA to determine if there is anything that the Town can do to assist in the development of their program at the former Mother Goose facility.

Mr. Favreau and Ms. Kosa will provide updates to Mr. Galligan and to the Committee as they receive them from the YMCA and the Avery Street Church.

The Committee will plan to meet in late February or early March to receive updates on the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> R program enrollment period.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Samara Haddock  
Recording Secretary