

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

**MINUTES
SPRENKEL ROOM**

**PAGE 1
TOWN HALL**

**REGULAR MEETING
April 11, 2019**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:07 pm.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Raymond Favreau, Director of Parks and Recreation
Matthew Galligan, Chairperson/Town Manager
Shelby Kosa, Recreation Supervisor/Director of 4th R Program
Anthony Leone, Resident/Parent (*via phone*)
Andrew Paterna, Mayor, Town Council (*sitting for Karen Lydecker, Town Council*)
Jason Meade, Resident/Parent
Vanessa Perry, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Human Resources

Members Absent

Tiffany Caouette, Principal of Pleasant Valley Elementary School/Superintendent's Designee
Audrey Delnicki, Town Council
Karen Lydecker, Town Council

Guests Present

Janice Snyder, Town Council

3. Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2019

Mr. Galligan made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2019. Mr. Favreau seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. New Business

General Discussion and Updates

Mr. Galligan informed the Committee that he would be presenting a tax fixing agreement proposal for Educational Playcare to the Economic Development Commission. The company has selected a site on Pleasant Valley Road, which would allow them to service the Pleasant Valley School district. The company plans to build a 2.8 million-dollar facility, with an additional 1 million dollars being spent on an outdoor playscape. The facility will be able to take up to 250 children. The Planning and Zoning Commission has concerns with the traffic patterns in the area, but they are examining the possibility of a left-hand turn signal at the Ellington Road/Pleasant Valley Road intersection. The proposed childcare facility at Evergreen Walk, at an estimated value of 3 million dollars, will be able to accommodate approximately 210 children in the Orchard Hill district. The Avery Street Church and the YMCA are both proceeding with caution after what occurred at Temple Beth Hillel. Mr. Galligan plans to arrange a meeting with representatives of both to ask what the Town can do to help move the project forward.

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

**MINUTES
SPRENKEL ROOM**

**PAGE 2
TOWN HALL**

**REGULAR MEETING
April 11, 2019**

The YWCA has been in contact with Mr. Galligan. Their operation at the former Mother Goose facility is able to accommodate 60-70 children. They do not offer a program for 5th grade students. The only issue they are having is transportation. Mr. Galligan would like to arrange a meeting with all of the daycare centers in South Windsor to find out how many facilities need transportation, and if it would be beneficial for all of the centers to share cost on bussing.

Ms. Kosa said that the 4th R open enrollment procedure has changed. This year they will be doing a lottery for all available public slots and for the waitlists. Preregistration for currently enrolled families has already been completed at each of the schools. The public registration lottery will be broken down by school, with one hour allotted for each school. The lottery will be on Saturday, May 4th at the following times for each school: Eli Terry at 9 am, Orchard Hill at 10 am, Philip R Smith at 11 am, and Pleasant Valley at 12 pm. Anyone who is looking to enter into the lottery should come for their school's hour. They must have their completed registration form to participate. Forms will not be accepted early. During each school's hour, Ms. Kosa will pull registrations for that school at random and assign slots in order until all slots are filled. The waitlist will then be filled in the same manner. Families should expect to stay for the full hour of their school's drawing in order to confirm details such as what time slots are needed, as this will affect the waitlist. All of this information is in the Recreation spring/summer brochure, and on the website. Mr. Leone said that there was some concern from people who may not be available to attend the lottery. Ms. Kosa said that 4th R staff will provide activities for children so that people who cannot find childcare can bring their children. If they truly cannot make it, they can send a representative. Their representative must have the completed registration form and be prepared to confirm any information on their behalf.

Mr. Leone said that there have been rumors that the YMCA decided to back off from the Avery Street Church project in order to allow the YWCA to move forward on their facility at Mother Goose. Mr. Galligan said that the YWCA is covering the Orchard Hill district, while the YMCA is covering PRS, so there should not be a conflict. Mr. Favreau said that he and Ms. Kosa recently met with Reverend Poolman to get an update on the situation. The church is still interested in moving forward, but they are still waiting for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) from the YMCA, after which the matter will be brought to a congregational vote.

Mayor Paterna asked a question on behalf of Councilor Lydecker: if families register for the end of this year's session, are they able to register for the remainder of the year and still be in the May 4th Lottery? Ms. Kosa confirmed that anyone who registers for care this year is told that they will still need to be in the lottery for next year.

Mr. Meade asked how many spots are estimated to be open for the upcoming 4th R registration. Ms. Kosa said that based on the numbers after the preregistration period, Eli Terry has 7 morning slots and 5 afternoon slots; Orchard Hill has no open slots; Philip R Smith has 6 morning slots and none in the afternoon; and Pleasant Valley has 6 morning slots and none in the afternoon. Mr. Meade asked if there were any children who had aged out of the program. Ms. Kosa said that there were, but they were replaced by siblings.

Mr. Meade asked if the 4th R program would be scaled down this year due to staffing concerns. Ms. Kosa and Mr. Favreau said that the program will not be scaled down. 4th R will continue to work with their current capacity at each school, which is 40 morning slots and 60 afternoon

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

**MINUTES
SPRENKEL ROOM**

**PAGE 3
TOWN HALL**

**REGULAR MEETING
April 11, 2019**

slots. The exception to this is at PRS with 80 afternoon slots, to accommodate children from the former Wapping School district.

Mr. Leone asked how many new students will be entering the school next year, which could affect the need for childcare. Ms. Kosa said that Superintendent Carter mentioned in her budget presentation that enrollment numbers are consistently going up each year. An additional 240 children are estimated for next year, spread out amongst all the schools. Mr. Leone asked if the two new childcare centers coming into Town would be able to cover the coming growth. Mr. Galligan said that both facilities are planned to be over 15,000 square feet, and could easily accommodate 50-60 children each just for before and after school care. They can take about 200-250 children each for overall daycare. Mr. Galligan said that his concern is about finding care for the PRS district, which is in a rural residential zone. Mr. Galligan has an idea that when the new school is built, a portion of the land could be leased out to a private developer to build a childcare facility. He plans to ask the Town Planner to look into this as it may require a special exception zoning change. Councilor Snyder added that there are currently 1,985 children enrolled in K-5, out of a total of 4,300 in the school system altogether. Since October 2018 up until the date of this meeting, K-5 enrollment increased by 39 students.

Mr. Meade asked that the 4th R program be more open about waitlist numbers and movement. This would give families some indication of how long they may need to wait, so they know if they should seek other care. Mr. Favreau and Ms. Kosa said that they do try to be as transparent as possible, while still indicating to families that there is no way to accurately predict waitlist movement. A general estimation of wait times could turn out to be inaccurate and misleading. Ms. Kosa always lets waitlisted families know that they should seek other options as a backup.

Mr. Leone asked what the plan is for Mr. Galligan's involvement with the Committee, as Mr. Galligan will be retiring this year. Mr. Galligan said that he will be staying on until August 15th, 2019 to assist with the transition period for the new Town Manager. After that, Mr. Galligan will be the Economic Development Consultant for the Town, so he will most likely be involved with the Committee through any daycare centers that are under development. The new Town Manager will become the chairperson of this Committee, and Mr. Galligan will ensure that the new Manager is aware of the situation so that the Committee's work can continue.

Mr. Meade suggested that information about alternative childcare programs be given to families at the 4th R lottery event.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Samara Haddock
Recording Secretary