

Southbury Community Center Exploratory Committee Overview to Date

The Southbury Community Center Exploratory Committee has been commissioned to investigate the possible development of a Community Center in Southbury. The Executive Director of the Greater Waterbury YMCA, Jim O'Rourke, has agreed to facilitate and provide resources to the committee and sub-committees. Three sub-committees have been established – *Community Needs Assessment, Collaboration and Community Models, and Feasibility and Capacity*. A detailed report will be presented to the Board of Selectmen in December 2012 or January of 2013.

Southbury Community Center Exploratory Committee Members

Kathy Bower
Jim O'Rourke
Ron Kalban
Ed Edelson
Charlie Rosa

Corina O'Dea
Dr. Frank Sippy
Frieda Denenmark
Greg Fenn
Janet Butkus

Jennifer O'Neill
Kurt Mazurosky
Neil Lustig
Trista DiDonato
Rich Hunter

Susanne Navas
Reverend Walter Pitman
John Bucciarelli
Cynthia Servetas

Prior Efforts to Establish a Community Center

1923 – A Southbury community center (SCCC)

1982 - The Parks Commission completed a feasibility study (SCCC)

2000 - Kingsley Research Report (Southbury, Woodbury, Middlebury, Oxford, & Roxbury) commissioned by the Waterbury YMCA

2001 - Southbury Community Center Committee final report completed

2010 - Student survey

2012 – Community Center Exploratory Committee is established

Sub Committees of the Exploratory Committee

Community Needs Assessment Subcommittee

1. Review past needs assessments *Summarize current data
2. Make recommendations for additional data gathering (if required)
3. Identify additional resources

Collaboration & Community Models Subcommittee

1. Visit and assess other community center models - Ridgefield Community Center, Ridgefield CT; Wheeler YMCA, Plainville CT; Indian Valley YMCA, Vernon CT; Putnam Family YMCA (In Development), Putnam CT; YMCA Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge, NJ
2. Make recommendations regarding best practices
3. Make recommendations on relevant design based on the work of the CNAS

Feasibility & Capacity Subcommittee

1. Review and summarize community philanthropy to date
2. Assess feasibility for giving
3. Develop a list of (50 to 75) key stakeholders
4. Develop a 501(c)3
5. Make recommendations and develop a guide of next steps for capacity building and capital development

Exploratory Committee Timeline

April 10, 2012 – Community Center Exploratory Committee commenced

May – Subcommittee Meetings (Community Needs Assessment, Collaboration and Community Models, and Feasibility and Capacity)

June 12, 2012 - Community Center Exploratory Committee

June-August - Subcommittee Meetings (Community Needs Assessment, Collaboration and Community Models, and Feasibility and Capacity)

September 18, 2012- Community Center Exploratory Committee

October 11, 2012 – Community Town Hall Meeting (7:00 p.m. Town Hall)

October-November - (Community Needs Assessment, Collaboration and Community Models, and Feasibility and Capacity)

December (TBA)- Community Center Exploratory Committee

December or January – Board of Selectmen Presentation

Committee Key Findings to Date

- Toured facilities found utilization better than expected
- Parking needs to be adequate
- Location matters – keep close to community center
- Multi-purpose rooms are essential
- All recreational facilities are in demand – Gymnasium, Pool (two different types – teaching & competitive), and Fitness Center
- None had a cultural theater (so far)
- Include outdoor running trail / walking path
- Keep landscaping to a minimum

IMPORTANT: Please participate in the community-wide needs assessment survey by logging onto the Southbury Town website:

www.southbury-ct.org between September 24th - October 5th.

October 11, 2012 – Community Town Hall Meeting (7:00 p.m. Town Hall)