

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019 AT 4:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CAUCUS ROOM**

Present: Chairperson Kathleen Kapusta
Councilperson Dr. Carl Asseff
Councilperson Jim Trakas (arrived at 4:34 p.m.)

Also Present: Mayor Anthony Togliatti
Councilperson Dale Veverka
Recreation Director Tom Walchanowicz
Community Services Director Marilyn Senick (left at 5:33 p.m.)
Community Services Office Coordinator Amber Veverka
Community Services Jenny Flynn (left at 5:14 p.m.)
Recreation Department – Eric Sarley

Chairperson Kapusta called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Chairperson Kapusta said we can start with the approval of the Minutes of the December 10, 2019 meeting.

Moved by Asseff seconded by Kapusta to approve the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting of December 10, 2018. Voice Vote: 2 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Chairperson Kapusta said we have the Drug Prevention Initiative updates as the first item on our agenda. Angie was unable to be here today, and so we have copies of her report which I am going to ask to have entered into the record; and I will pass copies around for everyone to take. I think she gave a very comprehensive report here, and in all fairness to her, I think we will ask you to just read it; and then if you have any questions certainly in advance, you could contact Angie or at our next meeting she would be available for contact.

Chairperson Kapusta said we are going to move right into the Community Services Department report, and we will leave it up to the department as to what order you would like your presentations to be done.

Community Services Director Senick asked Jenny Flynn to go first.

Jenny Flynn said I think at the last meeting you guys talked about what resources are out there for homeowners in the community if they are needing to repair their homes. So, I was able to find through the County there is the HELP Loan Program. That's Housing Enhancement Loan Program. I am passing out a thing too. Essentially, you can get a loan, and you would go to either Key Bank or Huntington Bank. The loan is actually three points below the normal rate.

So, you can do alterations to the home, repairs, maintenance or improvements. It says loans may also be for code violations, compliance and property upgrades. It's pretty straightforward, and I guess you just go to the bank.

Councilperson Trakas asked do we qualify for this program?

Ms. Flynn said yes. It says it must be an eligible community. All communities in Cuyahoga County except for what is listed here.

Councilperson Trakas said I thought we had to opt in or something.

Mayor Togliatti said that's the Heritage Home Loan.

Ms. Flynn said on the other side of this is the Heritage Home, and that's the one I think we didn't opt into. That one is for the older homes.

Councilperson Trakas asked so these are for people that owe under \$150,000?

Chairperson Kapusta said \$250,000.

Councilperson Trakas said that's great.

Ms. Flynn said that is available through the County. The other paper is through NHS, which is Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland. So, that one has actually a woman who you contact; and they are similar. It's updating your home, new windows, doors, insulation, high efficiency heating and cooling, electrical system upgrades. Again, kind of updating your home. This one you actually go through them. You call and get an application. You have to get three bids for your project; and then essentially that determines your loan. So, they do an inspection before the project and after the work is done to be sure that you did what you said you were going to do. She told me the interest rate is between 4.99% and 6.5%, and you can borrow up to \$30,000. So, just a couple of things I could find out. She was very easy to get ahold of too.

Chairperson Kapusta said thank you Jenny.

Community Services Director Senick said and just as a comment, we did talk and contacted the Building Department and the Fire Department to see how we could assist, Jenny could assist. I had talked to Don Ramm, and said when Mike is back that he thought it was a good idea that we all get together with the Fire Department, Building Department to see when they go out if there's some way we could assist or help residents.

Chairperson Kapusta said I would think especially as the Fire Department is again going out with their new program for the smoke detectors and things that would be helpful.

So, besides going through the departments, do you have these available for residents at the Civic Center or could you have them available perhaps?

Ms. Flynn said yes, I could put them out on that spinner so people could access them.

Councilperson Trakas said it was posted on social media yesterday.

Ms. Flynn said somebody did. It wasn't me though.

Community Services Director Senick said and we could even put something in the Spotlight that this is available.

Several people began speaking at once.

Chairperson Kapusta said that would be good. This would be helpful to us because we will be having a workshop on the rental ordinance; so that will be very helpful for us to share this information. Are there any questions?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz asked do you know what the interest rate is for the County one?

Ms. Flynn said well they just said three points below the normal rate.

Councilperson Asseff asked does it matter if there's a mortgage on the house?

Ms. Flynn said I think your taxes have to be up to date. I don't think they mention anything about a mortgage.

Ms. Flynn said you have to live in the home too.

Chairperson Kapusta said I just asked Debi as well to have copies made for when we do have the workshop so the rest of Council could see this. Thank you.

If there's no questions, thank you for your time Jenny. We appreciate the information.

Community Services Director Senick said I did ask to go first, and I just want to start with an apology. I have been suffering from vertigo, and I am having some issue with my eyesight because I get a little bit dizzy. So, I may not read this whole thing or go through it, and I am going to sometimes have to defer to Amber. It's pretty big print so maybe we can work this out.

For this last year, what I had discussed with Amber is I kind of wanted to do a fun thing and look at some numbers which I think are quite interesting and a recap on what we did for 2018. So, I think the first thing I think we have served, as you can see in our headlines. Amber, why don't you tell them a little bit about what we did with the paper.

Amber Veverka said I took this presentation, and it's called Prezi, and it's kind of like a newspaper.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Community Services Director Senick said for 2018, we served 5,762 meals. Can you believe that? I think it's wonderful, and Amber you know what I think I'm going to let you read this because I am having a problem with my eyes right now. I can comment on it as we go through if I have some comments.

Amber Veverka said we serve regular lunches each week. So, we had our 55+ lunch which is our regular Friday, our 60+ lunch which we no longer do. It was just for last year through the County grant. We do Tuesday, Wednesday, and we do a couple of brunches and then our special meals which are a breakfast, a Veterans' Day Program and a Victorian Tea. So, any meal we did for 2018 is all included in these numbers. It's about a 9% increase from 2017 meals. We served 5,306 in 2017.

Community Services Director Senick said and I have to say, I think the grant program, those grant meals, helped bring in the extra people; and we see a lot of our programs are increasing, and we attribute some of that to with the trips and even more people going on trips to people coming in for those lunches. They become more familiar. It's the socialization and talking to each other. They are reading the Spotlight more. I think that was very helpful.

Chairperson Kapusta said I think all the ability to access through the computer so much now too has to make it easier for some people. I don't want to think about going in to register, I don't want to go in on the first morning, and they can just get up on their computer, they get all the information. I do not consider myself particularly computer savvy find it very easy to navigate the web pages for your programs and things. Hopefully, others do as well.

Community Services Director Senick said it will be a lot easier with some of those we are changing on there too.

Ms. Flynn said the other thing is I think we have had some widows coming in bonding together. I think they almost maybe have met through St. Michael's, that dinner that they do. I have noticed that there is a group that is coming in.

Chairperson Kapusta said that's nice.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Ms. Veverka said you could definitely tell the attendance is up. We had two fewer meals served in 2018, but we are up over 400 actually.

Chairperson Kapusta said I'm just curious with the grant information, could we ever, or do you ever since there were other communities involved, have a sense of how they did in their communities? That could be interesting just to hear.

Community Services Director Senick said we did more meals. They do one a week, and they do a breakfast. We are serving three or four times a week, and Broadview is very limited in what they do and Seven Hills.

Mayor Togliatti asked didn't we use some of the grant portions that were earmarked for other communities because they weren't going to use it?

Community Services Director Senick said they gave us five or seven extra.

Ms. Flynn said we got some extra meals through them because they weren't using them.

Community Services Director Senick said Brecksville and Broadview Heights shared theirs with us. We used all that, plus we did all of our programs. We had the money for that so that was good.

Chairperson Kapusta said thank you.

Community Service Director Senick asked any questions on that?

There were no questions.

Community Services Director Senick said one year, 18,000 calls, can you believe it?

Ms. Veverka said so our front desk, 18,000 calls for 2018 and 10,000 outgoing calls. So, that 18,000 is just inbound calls for the year. We wrote down like a little daily average just because we are open 358 days; so the average is there. So, 50 a day coming in, 28 going out; and we just did a little comparison for fun for the month of December 2018 just to compare to other front desks. So, we got 1,400 calls in December 2018. Kyle pulled these numbers for us to see the volume that we are getting.

Councilperson Asseff asked what's the average questions that are asked because if you get that many there has to be a lot of calls that cover the same material.

Ms. Veverka said I think a lot of people call our desk when they don't know which department to call; so a lot of it is transferring and re-routing. I don't want to take a guess, maybe 10% or 15%, maybe not even that high.

Community Services Director Senick said we do get a lot of the calls for the snowplowing when there's a problem because we are open seven days a week so they can't get any other department.

Councilperson Asseff said you get the call that there's snow on the ground, where are the trucks.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Community Services Director Senick said all the hot calls.

Chairperson Kapusta said which I think is representative also of many of our residents' feelings about your department. They are comfortable with your department. You are one of the most visible to them. Not that they aren't received well at City Hall or anyplace else, but you are where they are so often that they feel that they could give you guys a call.

Community Services Director Senick said and you hear how they field the calls, and how they talk. Sometimes the resident will get heated on say like a snowplow issue, and the employees are very personable and pleasant and try to remain that way. So, they do a very good job.

We also with trips and programs, there's always questions about the Spotlight about trips and lunches. They ask what the lunch is even though it's in the Spotlight. What are you serving today? Did I pay for my lunch or didn't I?

Councilperson Trakas said that's what it's all about.

Ms. Veverka said I want to talk a little bit about youth programs. We did cover our summer camp and summer programs the last meeting. The programs that are very popular, and these are programs that either meet or exceed our maximum participation. So, this is a list of the ones from last year that either hit or went above that. A lot of them are the special programs, Before School is actually, if we get any more kids we are going to outgrow the room. That has been at 25 kids, and that's the maximum for that room that we have right now. Junior Chef which just came back at the beginning of last year, that's very popular as well as our Funtastic Fridays as well.

Chairperson Kapusta said I think your names are so creative for your programs.

Community Services Director Senick said the Easter Bunny Breakfast, we just actually checked it today, and Claudia was telling me that there's a wait list already for the Easter Bunny Breakfast. We could take like 150 people, so it's like can I take more?

Ms. Veverka said there was a wait list just a couple of days after.

Community Services Director Senick said I think it just shows you how much the community is involved with both of the sides. We talk about Community Services, but so much of what we do we really depend on each other.

Chairperson Kapusta said I had an interesting commentary as I was helping out at the St. Patrick's Day registration there, the Welcome Desk; and it was a resident from Brecksville who I had known a long time. They lived in Brecksville a long time and said that he would prefer to come to our Civic Center because he is so well received here.

Councilperson Trakas asked did you ever talk about doing a Father/Daughter dance type thing. Sometimes they do them at the clubs. We don't have any clubs around here, but I was just curious. If you do it on a Saturday afternoon or something; the kids get dressed up. The parents get dressed up.

Ms. Veverka said there is one that is hosted in our building.

Eric Sarley said the Sons & Daughters.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said the Primary PTO does it in our gym.

Community Services Director Senick asked where is the Friday one in the gym?

Ms. Veverka said the Kangaroo Kids.

Community Services Director Senick said the Kangaroo Kids, we were doing that every two weeks. We had about 25 kids there. They were 2 to 5 years old. We saw they were really always there, and I thought maybe it would work every week, let's try it. They go, they won't come every week. Every week 25 kids come. We do it every week now for the Kangaroo Kids, and the parents come with the children. We set up the whole gym, Tom your guys help us set it up with all different toys and all this stuff that Claudia has upstairs. We bring it down. It's a nice program. We have expanded that to every week.

Chairperson Kapusta asked have you yet developed or saw the need to develop any programming for grandparents and child? I know you transport to the school for the Grandparent Program; but it might be something to think about, give it a try one time. I see that more and more. There's that Grand magazine, which is the grandparent magazine. I am sure you have all seen it, and they are always talking about interaction between the generations.

Community Services Director Senick said and there's a number of grandparents that do bring their grandchildren. They are watching the children, they are bringing them to all of these programs because the parents are working. That's a good idea.

Community Services Director Senick said Amber I'm going to let you do it because my eyes are seeing double.

Ms. Veverka said so we have a number of really great trips, they mostly stay around the northeast Ohio area. They go to dinner or plays. Community trips are about the same as the year before. We did have several cancellations around the time when the big bus was having all of its issues. We did have to cancel quite a number, but still we did 61 trips. We did take a charter bus for 19 of those through J&F or BRT. We also do shuttles for private organizations. This would be the Cornerstone of Hope. This would be the wrestling tournaments, the Bocce groups, the Garden Club; and the City trips and shuttles would be for our special events. That would be Shop With A Cop, any type of City tour that would use the baby bus. So, we count all those. It does get used quite a bit between the 12 and 21 passenger.

We have done pretty well with the charter bus. Did you have a comment about the charter bus?

Community Services Director Senick said we could buy a big bus, or buy a new bus?

Councilperson Asseff said stay with the charters. It gives us more parking spaces.

Community Services Director Senick said you know it has been well received because we do charter with Brecksville, and even the other bus is a nice bus. We have been utilizing that quite a bit.

Councilperson Asseff said it makes sense because they keep their equipment up.

Community Services Director Senick said and the pricing, I have some of the numbers here; but from July through December is when we started doing the charter buses. The cost for that for the buses has been a little over \$9,000.

Councilperson Asseff said that isn't bad. You look at buying a bus and the cost and depreciation, interest and the deterioration. It sits there, and it doesn't start.

Chairperson Kapusta said and liability when the bus breaks.

Councilperson Asseff said this way we are getting new equipment.

Community Services Director Senick said and when our bus broke down we didn't have another bus. Their bus breaks down, they send another bus. It's been positive. I have to say I didn't know it would be as positive, or think it would be as positive; and I feel that it really is.

I have to say Lori Rizzardi is doing the trips now, and she is doing a really good job. We have a couple of trips coming up that we have a wait list. This month it was like we have 40 people on two of the trips, and there's a wait list. We could take them if the restaurant or the location accepts them because BRT has a 53 passenger or a 47 passenger. So, it has been working out.

Chairperson Kapusta said and I know we had talked about this Marilyn. We are continuing to be able to accommodate our residents with special needs, and that's wonderful. It's very important.

Community Services Director Senick said our resident with the wheelchair scooter actually has registered for I believe five trips; and BRT charges us \$50 more for the bus for a wheelchair. Recently he has waived that because we are giving him business. I asked Lori to ask him to waive that.

Chairperson Kapusta said that's nice.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said he always treats the City good.

Community Services Director Senick asked any questions? There were none.

Ms. Veverka said and on a related note, we can talk about our transportation. So, this includes any medical transportation plus any transportation to the Civic Center or programs, lunches, Matter of Balance and those types of things. It is up a little bit. There is an 8% increase in the amount of trips. So, this is the number of trips back and forth, and the revenue is up a little bit.

Councilperson Trakas asked how many actual residents participate in the program?

Ms. Veverka said it's like 60 or so. Jenny, do you know?

Ms. Flynn said I think it's more like 40 or 50.

Ms. Veverka said we did clean it up a little bit.

Ms. Flynn said maybe you are right because there are some people, probably about 50 to 60.

Councilperson Trakas said and they take that many trips. It's not surprising.

Ms. Veverka said they come up several times a week sometimes.

Community Services Director Senick said and our drivers are very personable. We are always getting compliments about them.

Councilperson Trakas asked the new vehicles are any different?

Community Services Director Senick said the only issue with the new vehicle is the trunk that you can't fit two walkers in. It's tight. That's the only complaint on the new car, but other than that, they like it.

Councilperson Trakas said it's always something. Does a wheelchair fit in the back in the trunk?

Community Services Director Senick said sometimes they do. It all depends on the size of it. We do have of course a handicapped van that transports one handicapped, a wheelchair. Then we have our baby bus that has two wheelchair capacity.

We just had a request today from a resident, and we try to accommodate them if they haven't been with us or driven with us; but he called up and said it's getting more difficult for him to drive. His wife has Parkinson's and has difficulty getting in and out of the car. Could we transport him with our wheelchair in the van? Of course, we said yes. So, it's the first time that he will be using us.

Councilperson Trakas asked have you seen the numbers become steady in terms of the amount of people using the transportation?

Community Services Director Senick said definitely. I would say steady.

Ms. Flynn said it depends.

Community Services Director Senick said it's about the same every time. It's basically the same in the number of transports. Transports coming into the Civic Center have definitely increased because of the lunches and programs we are offering, the program that Jenny does. Actually, April helps us out with those. We have a lot more people coming into the Civic Center.

Councilperson Trakas said I think there's such a value to doing this. I would hope that more people would take advantage of it.

Chairperson Kapusta said I think that the importance of the transportation and the availability of the transportation is also reinforced by the website again too because that's one of the boxes you

have to check, yes or no, do I need transportation to the Civic Center. Even if somebody had kind of forgotten and didn't want to ask; they may be more inclined because of that as well. So, that's a good thing.

Ms. Veverka said so this is a glance at the new resident and new baby program. We have had an increase. We put up a flyer at the Fieldhouse and the Civic Center just to kind of get a little more interest; and I am not really sure how many people are actually moving into the City. These are just the people who reach out to us and want to be in the program. So, I'm sure it's a lot more than this, but it's about a 45% increase in the program from a year. So, we are making a lot of baby bags.

Those babies in the picture are Ryan's twins.

Mayor Togliatti said from IT.

Councilperson Asseff asked when you count the residents, is it two per household? I am trying to figure out how many houses are changing. You have 69 new residents, and how that breaks down.

Ms. Veverka said the new residents are per household. So, it's 69 households, not different people. We have a lot of single people, and then we have a lot of couples without children. We have quite a few families.

Councilperson Asseff said it's 69 households, it gives me a better idea of what's moving out of the City versus 69 residents.

Ms. Veverka said it would be easy to track that if we wanted to start doing that because when they fill out that form they write all the names of the members of their household on there.

Councilperson Trakas asked including renters?

Ms. Veverka said yes, we do get renters too. We do have a checkbox, they put rent or own; and then I go onto the Auditor's website to make sure that the house transferred.

Chairperson Kapusta asked do you share that information about newly registered renters with any other City department?

Ms. Veverka said no.

Mayor Togliatti said you should give that to the Building Department.

Chairperson Kapusta said thank you. That was where I was going.

Ms. Veverka said it's not too many, it's maybe less than 20%. It's enough to notice.

Councilperson Trakas said it's about the number we are hearing.

Ms. Veverka said I actually like to make sure that they are moving into the City, and they aren't just trying to get the things. We like to have them stop into the building to see the facility. We invite them to come in and tour, see the Rec Department, look at the gym. A lot of people who sign up for the program actually are sent over from their desk because they came in to get a pass. We go over the programs then.

I have seen a lot of young couples with no children. A lot of the households are that way. So, I just happened to notice a trend there.

Community Services Director Senick asked any other questions?

Chairperson Kapusta asked when a resident does come over to the building for the first time, and I know your staff is limited. Do they typically walk around themselves? Does somebody show them around? How does that work?

Eric Sarley said as far as Rec, I supervise a lot on the weekends so a lot of times I will personally tour them around. Some of just kind of want the freedom to explore themselves, but usually I make sure any questions they have are answered. If they come for the Rec side we always direct them over to Community Service side and tell them about the New Resident Program. I say to the majority of the people that hey we would like to give you a tour, show you what you would be getting with the pass.

Chairperson Kapusta said I was just curious. Thank you.

Community Services Director Senick said it is going to happen, the renovation 2019. We are scheduled to close the rooms down in August. There will be three weeks down for renovation. It is going out to bid for the rooms. Dennis is truly really involved in helping out with this and handling the legislation. So, actually he has some people coming over to look at the rooms tomorrow to give some quotes. That is what he told me today.

This is how we are going to do it. The banquet rooms, all three of them, you can see everything is going to be replaced, the wall treatments, the lighting upgrade.

Chairperson Kapusta asked when you talk about lighting upgrade, is that the LED that we are putting in the other places, or what does that mean?

Community Services Director Senick said I was talking about the wall fixtures.

Councilperson Asseff asked this is going to take three weeks?

Community Services Director Senick said that's what they are telling me. Don't tell Dennis I booked five weeks. He said I only need three. I am going with five.

Mayor Togliatti asked what are the dates you have booked?

Community Services Director Senick said about mid-August until the second week of September I think it was.

Councilperson Asseff said that's a lot of work.

Community Services Director Senick said that's my feeling also. They say they could rip up the carpeting in a day or they could pull the wallpaper down in two days.

Councilperson Asseff said maybe.

Community Services Director Senick said we said we are going to do the Willow Room too. In the Willow Room we are just doing the carpeting and the painting. We aren't replacing the chairs or the seating or anything like that.

Then we are going to move into the atrium, but that's going to be after the other rooms are done. I feel positive. I think it certainly needs the upgrade, and I think our residents will be very happy with it also. We are going to put new tile and new stalls and everything into the bathroom.

Councilperson Asseff asked have you put the word out to the community it's going to be closed during that time?

Community Services Director Senick said not yet. No we did not.

Councilperson Asseff said the more lead time you have, the less resistance.

Community Services Director Senick said my concern is, and I haven't thought this all the way through yet, is like the lunches and even though the rooms will be closed, I was thinking can I get to another location. I could have the lunches catered. I want to put something in place that I could still accommodate over a five week period. Some of the people really depend on our lunches. So, I haven't thought this completely through yet.

Councilperson Asseff said brown bags.

Chairperson Kapusta said we have the picnic tables in the Kiwanis Pavilion, but the picnic tables would be hard for a lot of folks to navigate; but the facility itself would have been good.

Community Services Director Senick said maybe I could set up in the gym for lunch.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said even the Elmwood Rec.

Community Services Director Senick asked is Jim in there then?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said he's in July.

Community Services Director Senick said we can look at something like that and maybe still offer, maybe not the Tuesday, Wednesday lunches but the Friday lunch.

Chairperson Kapusta said some of our residents will have a chance to see how nice that building looks now too.

Councilperson Trakas said it's big enough.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said that's where it all started.

Community Services Director Senick said that's the one thing I have been thinking of. I would hate to say you can't come in.

Councilperson Asseff said during those times you will have the workers there too.

Councilperson Trakas said you have workers, you have glue and smells.

Community Services Director Senick said right. I'm looking more to take it somewhere. That is a good point. Thank you.

Chairperson Kapusta said I was going to say before that I think sometimes when we look at the Community Services side or the Recreation side we forget how old the building is because departments, the City have all done a really good job in trying to certainly maintain it. I know sometimes, and I wholeheartedly know that the renovation is needed and support that; but sometimes I think people just forget how old that building is. Time is moving forward.

Councilperson Trakas said I still say our new Civic Center. It's 31 years old.

Community Services Director Senick said it does need a facelift. Any questions? There were none.

Of course, one of the most important things is ongoing programs, new programs. We do have meetings about that. There are some highlights here, but we have some ideas of what we want to go into in 2019 and 2020. There are just a few listed here.

Ms. Veverka said we are just trying to keep things fresh and keep families interested. We are revamping some old programs that we have used in the past. So, we just had the first revamping of the Family Movie and Trivia Night last month; and so we are going to do that in just the spring and fall, every other month. So, there's another one coming up in April. We are trying out a family exercise class and see how that goes. We have some craft classes. We have added Marilyn your robotics program. Do you want to talk about that?

Community Services Director Senick said it's in the planning stages right now. I'm dealing with somebody who does robotics, they come in and do a robotics program. I have been wanting that for over a year.

Councilperson Trakas asked what do you mean by robotics program? What is that?

Community Services Director Senick said well the kids can build different things, build robots. There are some children who are really interested in that. I am not really familiar with the ins and outs of robotics, but I just really know that it's a really popular program. We want to put some of it into our Friday night program. There's a company that comes out and does the program. Also, I have been talking to the schools because they have a robotic program. I have been talking to the principal, the superintendent, that maybe they could offer something for us at Community Services.

We have a couple of kids who actually go away to camp for robotics in the summer for two weeks. So, I think it's out there. I don't know if any of you guys have any comments on that.

Mr. Sarley said I'm interested to hear about the program that you have been talking about.

Chairperson Kapusta said I know when I was on the Board of Ed for the Career Center, they used to do just like you are saying the summer robotics program. I remember those.

Community Services Director Senick said I just saw it as I was looking with the parade when I was home with the vertigo. I am on the computer and looking for stuff. So, I am doing golf for the parade, and I came across robotic golf. I said boy if I could get this robot, but he was against all these top players, this robot and was hitting the golf ball into washing machines that were all over the golf course. It was hysterical. These top golfers are playing this robot.

Mr. Sarley said we have to make sure he's not hitting any golf balls into the crowds.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Community Services Director Senick said so it was a vision for a new program.

Ms. Veverka said we are looking at more adult programming too. We want to fit that in between age as well as some of our more active seniors; and they maybe unintentionally were focusing on movement and wellness and mindfulness. We are trying out an aromatherapy class. We have a chair yoga. How many people did we have last week? We had almost 20 people.

Chairperson Kapusta said it was amazing. I was there. It was very well received.

Ms. Veverka said we have line dancing. We have 16 people line dancing on Fridays. The Memoir group which Kathleen is leading, and Mindful Moms. We are trying to get moms to come in and realize they can chill out and have some time for themselves.

Community Services Director Senick said Jenny do you want to address the two programs that have been successful in 2018.

Ms. Flynn said so I am actually running the Mind Matters for Brain Health, and it depends. We kind of vary between anywhere from 6 people. We have had almost 20 people sometimes. We

subscribe to this activity website; and so I get essentially games that I print out. People come in, and we do it all together. It's nice because it kind of stimulates you a little bit, plus it's social. We are getting people who maybe aren't coming to other things, and then it's right before lunch on Wednesdays so occasionally we are getting people who are then coming into the lunch. That has been good.

Then also there is the Better Balance class. It was kind of a spin off from a class that we had done before for falls; and actually April is doing it, although I have filled in for her for a couple of times. That is a really nice group also. We are getting 15 to 20 people in there, and she keeps a nice variety of activities. She does the exercise with them, and then does some fun stuff with them. Sometimes she brings small balls that they toss back and forth. Sometimes she has these big balls. So again, it's kind of socialization, but some exercise. People really like it. People have told friends, and so that's why it kind of has grown. Both programs have been very good, and we do transport in for both of those programs.

Community Services Director Senick said that's it. There's our green team.

I really want to make a comment about the staff. We have a great staff and a great team. I think we all work together; and I see both Community Services and Recreation. We are very grateful. I am very grateful as a director to have the staff that I have.

Councilperson Trakas said I always get great compliments from everybody. It is used by our community and publicly accessible too.

Chairperson Kapusta said and even though you are two distinct departments, I perceive you as a resident as being more seamless over the last few years; and that's what I think we are always going for.

Councilperson Asseff said I have one question. You have on here the agenda the new transportation vehicle.

Community Services Director Senick said actually I was scheduled for a new vehicle, and I have a Taurus. We replaced the SUV. We used to have an SUV. We replaced that. I got a Ford Taurus, and then I found out that wasn't being used as much. So, instead of going out and buying a new vehicle right now, I am utilizing that vehicle for transportation.

Councilperson Asseff asked is it working out?

Community Services Director Senick said yes, fine, and I am saving some money.

Councilperson Asseff said good. That's what we want.

Community Services Director Senick said actually about \$25,000 right now, it's in a hold position, plus a bus.

Councilperson Asseff said there will be a bus, and you will be on it.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Community Services Director Senick said the SUV I replaced because you know I am trying to save money. I'm just not going out and buying a vehicle.

Chairperson Kapusta said before we have Rec begin, I would just like to comment on the format of your presentation. It was amazing. There should be no competition here though. You put so much work and effort into it. It is certainly not the intent.

Community Services Director Senick said I have to compliment Amber, and I thank her for the hard work she did with this.

Ms. Veverka said it was the same amount of time to put together the presentation.

Chairperson Kapusta said it was very engaging. Thank you. I look forward to these meetings.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said I am going to do the year end wrap up review for our department. Some of this we touch base on throughout our other couple of meetings, but I always like to go over at the end like this. I think it's a good chance for us to look back on the year and see what we did and see what we can improve on and go from there.

So, going on here. We have some revenue numbers. We looked back for three years, 2016, 2017 and 2018. This year we had about \$10,000 of what we had last year. Some things were up, and some things were down. A lot of this is dependent upon weather is what we really learned. Our concession stand sales, it all depends on too when the thunderstorms roll through the pool. So, there are a lot of different variables, especially with the weather when it takes a toll on some of this.

Going on here, I just want to note on one in particular. Well, it's not on this. Anyway, going through here, one of the things lately is the racquetball. I did notice that it has been going down. We are looking to try and see if we can kind of jumpstart that portion of our department. We want to try to get that going. Racquetball lately has really fallen off, but I think pickle ball has replaced it. Last Wednesday night at the outdoor courts, it was one of the first warm nights; and there must have been about 50 people out there. They were waiting for a court. It was nice to see that.

Chairperson Kapusta said in my opinion that's not a significant change if the rental rates have remained consistent in dollar amounts. That is not a huge change, but I do agree, I think it's the pickle ball. It's the rage now.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said moving on here to the facility daily pass sales. This is for people who don't have passes. They come in either as a guest or some of the residents who feel that they want to come in as they pay. So, overall we are up. One of the things we did in 2018 is that, and that's why the Fieldhouse guest fee has gone up so much; is we did move two days of pickle ball over to the Fieldhouse. So, it took some revenue from the Civic Center over to the Fieldhouse. That is why the Fieldhouse has gone up so much.

Our outdoor pool guest fee also went up this past year also. So, overall we are up a couple of thousand dollars in the daily pass figures.

Going down to program and activity participation; and again I am not going to go into detail on this. One thing we did find though is that our marketing is really a key to some of these programs. Case in point was this past year we advertised for our kindergarten basketball program. I think we had only about 8, and we ended up cancelling it. What we did was re-did another class, and we offered it later; and we had 29. If you look at our kindergarten basketball program last year had 22. So, in 2019 it will be up to 29. Again, a lot of it depends on the marketing, and when we get the flyer out to the schools. It make a big difference. I don't know if you guys ever noticed that, but it just seems that it's the flyer to the schools. It is very important. I just don't know if many people are looking at that paper Spotlight. For us, the big thing is that flyer.

Councilperson Asseff asked is that sent home with the school children?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said yes.

Ms. Veverka said we don't do the flyer for activities, we do the flyer for special events. That is something we haven't explored yet.

Councilperson Trakas are you thinking about how we can incorporate the new website and how that might help you with marketing as well.

Mr. Sarley said I think it's getting that information to as many quadrants as possible, whether it's certain things you can see. The Facebook post will do a lot in certain things, and the school will do a lot.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said and Facebook does do a lot too.

Chairperson Kapusta asked do the flyers just go to the primary school?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said we send them to St. Michael's also.

Chairperson Kapusta said but not our middle and high school.

Mr. Sarley said those aren't the programs.

Chairperson Kapusta said certainly by high school, but even by middle school it's kind of a wash. They never get home, speaking from personal experience.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said right. Down at the bottom there, we utilized five programs, and they are starting to take off a little bit.

Next on to Civic Center attendance. Again, I went back to 2016, 2017 and 2018. We are on a nice uptick.

Councilperson Trakas asked and how many of those are repeat customers?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said yes.

Councilperson Trakas asked do you have numbers on just singular people who come up?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said we could, yes.

Councilperson Trakas said that would be interesting to see.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said the Sportsman Program is able to (inaudible) each person, how many times they used it for the year.

Councilperson Trakas said for subsequent meetings it would be nice to know.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said the next is outdoor pool attendance figures. Again, in the month of May if you remember we had that nice hot beginning; and then June and July kind of fell off a little bit; but then we got that big jump in September. I think the kids actually had off.

Mayor Togliatti said we extended it didn't we.

Chairperson Kapusta said yes we did.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said we did open the outdoor pool up. So, it's kind of odd the way sometimes the weather works.

Chairperson Kapusta said but there again showing the flexibility of trying to adapt that and what can be beneficial for the residents.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said then over at the Fieldhouse in the past three years, 2016, 2017 and 2018, we had a really good year again this year. We did a lot as far as the Tucker Neale rentals on the weekend. They have really increased. Again, just doing some creative scheduling. I know Tony makes some calls when he sees open time slots. He calls some of our regulars who come in and rent, and the marketing dropped off a little bit; but again all this marketing is for the advertisement signs that are hanging on the walls. Neither Tony or Linda or myself have focused on actually going out and trying to drum up more business. We were trying to maintain the ones that we have up there. If we see somebody, we try and promote. Overall we are not spending a lot of time trying to market it because it really doesn't bring in that much revenue for us.

Councilperson Asseff asked is that marketing costs?

Mayor Togliatti said no, that's the revenue.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said correct.

Chairperson Kapusta said and I think we always, we mention this usually once a year, the fact that you are doing this with your reallocation of your staff without replacing the position that was vacated by the Coordinator or Director. So, that should always be acknowledged too.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said so that wraps that up. We will move on to 2018 Capital Improvements. Again, we had a real busy year. Keep in mind, and this is where I will stress that a lot of the stuff in the park was built in the 1990's so we are getting on 25 years old for a lot of our structures there. We really did a lot of work. We had a busy year, and overall everything I think worked out real good. There were no major issues. Everything basically came in under budget. The money that we did ask Council for, we did come lower than what we had.

Chairperson Kapusta asked did the schools also our tennis courts or no?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said for their gym classes. I think the freshmen still have a gym class that goes down there.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said I'm just going to run through this, the Liberty playground renovation. I brought this book. This is the 2019 catalog, and they actually put our playground in there. It was a full two pages. We actually kind of designed this. We put this together ourselves through the groups that we were meeting with and our staff. They sell this all as one piece now. They came out with that as a unit.

Councilperson Asseff asked do we get any royalties on that?

Several people began speaking at once again.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said they were a very good company to work with. They made a mistake on the colors on the zip lines; and they sent out all new poles. They actually gave us a longer zip line. We were supposed to get a 75 foot, and they threw in 100 foot for no additional cost. It was a very good company to work with. I am very impressed with them.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said there's a couple of other things to note. I know sometimes Jim or Kathleen won't get around too much. Again, I work very closely with Dave Snyderburn. There was stuff he lined up and expedited. He did the Safety Town bridges. We had them sandblasted and recoated this year. It should last us 33 years. We refinished the Safety Town houses and repainted. We put concrete bases around them. Obviously, the shade structures for 1, 2 and 3, we did that last April. The Zuber Field light replacement, which was a lot of work, and we should have them done before the season. Dave has some electrical work he has to get done yet. The U-10 soccer field lights are completed. We worked again with the school with the Shared Use Facility parking lot expansion. I know Eric showing some pictures of the park fence that was done. We are now looking at some trees to put along the border of the Londrico property and Horvater property to help beautify that area. We added additional outdoor pool furniture, and we did the indoor pool renovations which included sandblasting the main pool, and painting.

Tech Service did the new sauna. The new steam room generator was done. They re-plastered the activity pool; and we had a contractor who did the locker rooms and re-grouted the hot tub.

So, again we are trying to maintain these facilities because as soon as you start letting this stuff go, it's costing more money down the road to get this stuff done. We are trying to be pro-active and keep this stuff all up to snuff, keep it to Independence standards and have something to be proud of.

There were the locker room show renovations. We snuck here in at the end of the year the tennis and pickle ball courts refinishing. Then over at the Elmwood Rec we continued over there. We got new tables and chairs. The flooring in the small meeting room was done, and Jim I'm not sure if you have been down to the Rec, but here's a nice picture of what it looks like now. That was the old smaller room with the checkerboard floor, and now we have the new vinyl flooring. In the kitchen we put the carpet which a lot of people, and I have been down there for a couple of basketball parties. Some of coaches had their basketball parties down there, and I went down there for some of the parties. Everybody is really impressed with the carpeting. It seems like everybody is saying it's more inviting. It has a more homey feel. We had some good feedback down there.

Mr. Sarley said people are coming and saying we heard that there is a brand new room here.

Chairperson Kapusta said I'm waiting for the ship lap on the walls, but I could wait.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said another thing we did this past year, we sandblasted that high dive stand and the two low dive stands and totally recoated those with urethane coatings. Dave Snyderburn handled that, and he had a contractor do that.

That wraps up the capital improvements we did this year, and then going on to some new programs.

Again, Jim Wotowiec he has a lot to do with a lot of these new things we have been coming up with like speed and agility conditioning, youth football. I know Jim has been working with Community Services. They get together and have meetings with what are some things we can help them out with at their summer camp and that.

April came up with a new pool aerobic program.

Our camp out & movie night in the park this past summer, we originally had 80 people signed up; and I know the rain kept some people away. Somebody came up with a suggestion about a breakfast in the morning. So, we are going to expand it this year and have breakfast in the morning. Mayor, did you bring it up? Don brought it up. We are going to have a breakfast in the morning at the pavilion after the camp out.

This year was the first year that we partnered with the Cavaliers, and it's called a Junior Cavaliers Partnership; and as you can see, it was pictured here. We got jerseys which were reversible, one side was black and the other side was white. The kids all loved it. The coaches

loved it, and it was just a very good program. We are going to definitely do it next year. It's a win-win for both. The kids got tickets to games. In fact, they gave us tickets, another set of tickets to another game; and we had a chance to go.

Then ICan. Again, Jim Wotowiec is doing a lot more and just trying to do whatever he can to keep our kids busy. I think it's about three days a week now for the ICan kids that they have something to do.

Someone said they just had a dance.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said the Irish dance was last Friday, and there was 39. That was new. There are various dances. There are sports. We are using this company, Empowered Sports, who comes in and assists us with some of the programming. There are different DJ's and all of that. It's very nice, and he does the Supper Clubs too.

Chairperson Kapusta said that program is so needed. Once the children, the individuals with special needs get beyond the high school years; there is just this gap that nothing is available for them. So, the fact that you sponsor that and work together on it, it's just wonderful.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said the next one is the Fieldhouse, and I'm not going to go through this. This is stuff we had there.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said that wraps up the review. Is there any questions? If not, I will move on to the next item. I know Jim you requested this, the makeup of our passes for the Civic Center. I will be discussing that, and then give you my recommendation.

Councilperson Asseff said I had one question. You showed the attendance at the Civic Center, how do you count that?

Mr. Sarley said everybody either has to swipe their pass when they come.

Chairperson Kapusta said but as Tom said with the Sportsman Program, they will be able to give us data on how many individual users that was as well.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said we will go on to the next slide.

Community Services Director Senick left the meeting.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said what we have here is pretty self-explanatory; but I will explain it. We have a total of 1,904 passes sold for the building. In that 1,904 it includes family passes matched by the expanse of 3,662 because some families have one kid, two kids, three kids. So, we can expand the families for the whole Civic Center, and we have 3,662.

Chairperson Kapusta asked and we have how many households?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said we have 2,700.

Chairperson Kapusta said thank you.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said here's the breakdown, family annual passes, 536 passes which you have 2,275. That makes up 62% of our total passes. The individual passes we have 694 which makes up 19%. Our seniors are 635 passes, which make up 17%. Our 90+ we have 8 which is below 1%. Disabled we have 13 passes.

Then we go on to our employee wellness passes, and how these are all broken down. Non-resident family, full-time employee, we have 6 with 25 members.

Mr. Sarley said basically there are 3 employee wellness passes. One is the non-resident family pass. There are both full-time and part-time; so of that, there 6 passes with 25 members. That would include 5 full-time workers and then 23 members of their families. Part-time members, we just have one part-timer who is on the family pass with his wife on it.

There is a non-resident full-time individual who is 6 passes; and then a non-resident part-time individual at 6 passes. So, out of all the non-residents that would be employee wellness passes; there is part-time employee members with 7 employees and 1 spouse.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said so what's bold and highlighted in yellow is what the concern was at the Community Services meeting is that we were getting too many part-time, non-resident people buying passes. As you can see, total there is only 8. It's very insignificant, and so my recommendation at this point is that we just leave this as it is. It is not affecting anybody. We are not getting any complaints, and it's not worth it to go and change this. By the time you get Greg O'Brien, his cost to redo some wording on this and all of us.

Councilperson Asseff said this is a good thing, and it is good for us. It is not costing anything more whether we have the 7 there or didn't have the 7 there. It is not a big consumption of dollars. It fits in.

Chairperson Kapusta said and referencing back to our Employee Wellness Committee, that's what a lot of is emanated too in wanting to have the opportunity available to all of our employees to utilize the facility. This certainly does not represent any negative or onerous impact in my opinion either.

Mayor Togliatti said and it's an incentive in this year's wellness.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said and if you look at the people who do have passes, it's all Recreation and Community Services employees which it's good to have them up there and being active also with the residents. It is a good thing. They are paying \$50 for a pass. It's not like they are getting a free pass. They are paying more than what a resident would pay. So, they are paying a premium over the residents.

Again, at this point I think we just end it here, and don't spend any more time on it because I don't think it's worth it.

Councilperson Trakas said I think we were worried about the guests and how many people were coming in as guests and the guest policy. That was more of an issue from a customer service perspective. People were manipulating the guest policy. People say well I used to live on Brecksville Road, and now I live in Brecksville. My grandkids want to come. I don't want to live here anymore. Those were the types of issues that were delving into.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said people still try to pull the wool over our eyes. We try to do the best we can to stop everything that we can; but obviously, it's hard. People are just trying to get by.

Mr. Sarley said I think that speaks to Independence as a whole that people will come and say hey I went to school here, and I'm an Independencian for life. I should be able to get a pass here.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Trakas asked how are we going to handle on Vista Springs, you have people coming in there. Do they get to apply for the grandparent deal too?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said we looked into it, and they can't do the grandparent thing. We did cut that before.

Mayor Togliatti said we amended it.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said that's taken care of, and at the Civic Center the Mayor asked me to do a little checking with Brecksville because they have some assisted living; and when I called over there they have 1 that they can see who actually bought a pass. There is nobody who is coming in there. I don't think you will have any issue with those people coming and buying Civic Center passes at all. I don't foresee that at all.

Councilperson Trakas said they are at the age where I would imagine they wouldn't be too active.

How about for the Recreation Department in terms of the schools; and I know there are team sports. I know you and I have talked a few times about some people who have come in, guest leagues and that type of thing. Have you had any difficulties? The concern that I heard from a couple of the coaches was that we want to schedule things for our residents; and outsiders already have the facility. How do you manage that?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said well this is how we do it. We always give our total home teams the first dibs. So, they have the first chance at stuff, and then we go on to a category which we call residents who form a travel team; and they have themselves, their son or daughter on it and maybe 1 or 2 other residents. There might be 3 residents on a team, and all the rest are made up of maybe Brecksville kids or Seven Hills or Valley View kids. They have the second in that, and they pay the \$20 fee at the Fieldhouse.

Then we have the all out full non-residents teams that come in. They pay \$40, and we try and give them the 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the undesirable time slots. We keep the 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the first two that I mentioned.

So, Jim we do that, and I know a couple of people have come to you. I have had a couple of people. After I explained to them, I think they were pretty satisfied with what I said. Tell me if we can do anything else.

Councilperson Trakas said it sounds fair to me.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said we aren't there trying to get the non-resident rate rentals to make money. We are catering to our residents, and that is our first priority.

Councilperson Trakas said we don't make any money on this.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said well the non-residents, we probably do make money on the non-residents. It's \$40 an hour at the Fieldhouse. We are doing pretty good with that, but we don't focus on that. Neither Tony or myself or anybody doesn't try and focus on trying to get non-residents to use our facility.

Councilperson Trakas said it sounds like a fair policy. I was just asked the question.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said the thing is too, again they don't get their exact time that they want; and if you ever want to stop by, I can show you on my computer. I can go back and show you all the schedules.

Chairperson Kapusta said it sounds like a good system Tom.

Councilperson Trakas said it sounds like it's working.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said the last thing I want to bring up before John leaves. Again, we are constantly trying to improve our facilities, and maintain them. I just want to say that I know that I brought this up. I think it was last year at one of the meetings, and I actually I tweaked it a little bit more; but I don't know Mayor, maybe I have to go into when we have the Finance Committee next or something. I want to make sure that I get this on the Five-Year Plan. We have to look at some stuff down the road.

One of the things that we talked about many times, and we never put an exact date or put it in concrete here in the Five-Year Plan is the bathrooms at the Shared Use soccer fields. We really need to look at that. If I had to take a stab at what it would cost us, I have an idea of putting it attached to our existing Service Department so we only would have to put a roof and three sides and a floor. We would get all of the utilities run out of the Service Department. I would have to say, and if we did it somewhat semi in-house, I would have to say between \$30,000 and \$40,000. We could probably put up a set of restrooms for that area because we are lacking over there. We do put porta-potties out there. We pay Waid, and so I think it's something we really should look at down the road here in the next couple of years and do.

Councilperson Trakas said from a sanitary perspective you want to have a better facility than a porta-potty.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said right.

Chairperson Kapusta said you get a lot of volume of use when the season is in.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said the only thing is I added that in, and that was to refinish the gym and racquetball courts. I am going to talk to John to see if we could use some of the money that we have been putting away for the Civic Center improvements. We have been doing that also. So, we will try and get that done this year which wasn't on here.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said I put in there too about the Fieldhouse floor, down the road; and 2025 might be premature. It might not be until 2028. We will try and go as long as we can. Like our park van, we may end up pushing that up to 2021 instead of next year. We will continue putting money away.

Again, I push things up whenever I can. We had a Kubota, the utility vehicle that we had for 2017; and we just took delivery on it this past January. So, again if stuff could get us an extra year or two, I just don't go and jump and get it. I try to keep pushing it forward. If we could get another year or two out of it, I try and do it.

Councilperson Asseff said that's a big number on the resurfacing. Possibly we could start loading it now with its own fund and get something in every year. When you hit it, you hit it.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Trakas said maybe at the next one, we meet every month or so with our budgets.

Chairperson Kapusta said we could almost do that similar thing with the Elmwood Activity Pool, and maybe spread that out a few years.

Tell me what you are going to do with the bocce court upgrade, or when you are going to do it?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said right now I know I am going to do some work with the drainage and some minor work to get us by this year. Then I am going to look into doing it at the end of this season. I don't want to do it now. I don't want to interrupt your season.

It's the same thing with the playground Phase 2. We are going to start at the end of October of this year.

Councilperson Trakas asked did we do the fence last year?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said we did the fence last year.

Councilperson Asseff asked how many bocce courts do we have, 2?

Several people said 3.

Mayor Togliatti said and they are offset, they are not square.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said there's a lot of people talking about putting some kind of cover over them. People had some ideas, but the cost is very high to try and cover an offset area. So, I don't know if that's going to be a reality.

Councilperson Trakas asked what about the covers that we have, those tarps?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said well we had looked at that, and we also looked at more of even something that would keep the rain out, a pavilion type. They are both pretty costly.

Councilperson Trakas said you can't do it all.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said and that is it.

Chairperson Kapusta said thank you. Are there any questions of Tom or Eric?

Councilperson Trakas asked Tom do you see trends? I know basketball is kind of different. Have you seen trends in terms of the sports that we are offering? Things that aren't as popular?

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said the big thing last year was (inaudible). Believe it or not, the basketball, our numbers were a little bit up this year. The Little League, what we are seeing more is our numbers for our regular Rec Little League are dropping a little bit, but what is compensating for that is our travel teams. I don't track our travel teams because that's a semi private thing, and we help them out. They use our fields. We work with them, but we don't per se say it's a Rec program. So, our travel teams in everything, in soccer. My son joined a travel team. He just wanted more competition to use him as an example.

So, the travel teams in all the sports have gone up. So, that is what we are seeing a big trend in.

Chairperson Kapusta said could I ask also that perhaps for a future meeting you could consider giving us a little bit of information about in light of today's world, what if anything, we do relative to our coaches in terms of evaluating them, training them, screening them, whatever. I think it would be very helpful.

Mayor Togliatti said we are working on a new policy administratively, doing some research between Letitia and the Police Chief; and it will be rolled out soon. We will have some information.

Chairperson Kapusta said that would be good for us.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said our past practice is, I talked to Dimitri about this a few times; is that most of our coaches are residents, like fathers and mothers. So, we didn't do a lot of extensive background checks on them. If we ever did take a younger 20 year old who was interested in coaching, we definitely did background checks. This past year we needed a soccer coach, so we actually had somebody from Seven Hills come and wanted to be a coach. We did an extensive background check on him. If it's somebody we don't know, we definitely do an extensive background check; but again most of our coaches are parents.

Chairperson Kapusta said right, but except again I am going to say I respect what you are saying Tom; but in today's world, even for the protection of the coaches. It is not only in looking from those vantage points of the children; we want to protect them of course. The coaches need some protection too, and my husband is a golf coach, and they have always been trained. They are always being evaluated. They are always being given instruction for their protection too as well as the students. So, that would be good. I would love to hear that in the future.

Councilperson Asseff said go right across the board, whether they are parents or not.

Chairperson Kapusta said right, that's what I am saying. That is my point.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said the policy is going to be everybody across the board.

Councilperson Trakas said that's a challenge.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said it is. First of all, it is very hard to get coaches. Parents have so many things going on. They won't commit the time. When you start sending them to a bunch of meetings, have trainings and that; a lot of them it's hard.

Chairperson Kapusta said I also say for both protection on both sides in today's world, it's just so very different.

Mayor Togliatti said and speaking of today's world, I don't know if anyone read through Angie's handout; but the second last paragraph it says parents are being warned about nicotine toothpicks, and evolving trend for teenagers. They report that one pack has as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

Councilperson Trakas said I saw that. I didn't know what that meant.

Chairperson Kapusta said I have been told by young people that you could be vaping in the classroom by just coughing this way; and they would be vaping with whatever they device they were holding in their hand.

Mayor Togliatti said I found one of those disposable devices laying on the ground in the parking lot in front of the Civic Center. I thought it was a USB jump drive. I picked it up and brought it in. Nobody knew what it was except for this guy over here. He told me to get rid of it.

Chairperson Kapusta said thank you both for again a very excellent, comprehensive report. I always look forward to the information you provide. It's both informative and just enjoyable to listen to your format of presentations. I thank you. Your efforts don't go unnoticed.

Recreation Director Walchanowicz said thanks for the opportunity. We appreciate it. I also want to thank Eric too. He's my main man to put all this together, and it was a lot of work.

Eric Sarley said I'm going to have to step it up next time though.

Chairperson Kapusta asked would it be agreeable if we might include these in the packets, their full reports? I know we always get the Minutes, but there is so much great information. We get a summary, but it would be nice to see. It would be great if we could do that.

Chairperson Kapusta asked are there any other matters that we need to discuss this evening? There were none.

I thank everyone for their attention, their attendance and their work this evening.

Moved by Asseff, seconded by Trakas, to adjourn the Community Services Committee Meeting of March 19, 2019. Voice Vote: 3 yes/0 no; motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the Community Services Committee Meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Debra J. Beal, Clerk of Council
Minutes Unapproved at Time of Release 05/20/19
