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City of West Allis Matter Summary

7525 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

| File Number | Title | Status |
|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2008-0647 | Appointment | In Committee |
| | Communication from Mayor Devine regarding the establishment of a West Allis Community Center Task Force. | |
| | Introduced: 10/7/2008 | Controlling Body: Advisory Committee |

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

APPROVAL

| ACTION DATE: | MOVER | SECONDER | | AYE | NO | PRESENT | EXCUSED |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| <u>OCT 21 2008</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Barczak | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Czaplewski | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Kopplin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lajsic | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Narlock | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reinke | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Roadt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sengstock | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Vitale | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Weigel | | | | |
| | | | TOTAL | <u>5</u> | <u>0</u> | | |

SIGNATURE OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

Judith Reinke _____
 Chair Vice-Chair Member

COMMON COUNCIL ACTION approval

| ACTION DATE: | MOVER | SECONDER | | AYE | NO | PRESENT | EXCUSED |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| <u>10-21-08</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Barczak | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Czaplewski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Kopplin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lajsic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Narlock | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reinke | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Roadt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sengstock | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Vitale | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Weigel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | | | TOTAL | <u>10</u> | <u>-</u> | | |



MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dan Devine
Mayor

414/302-8290
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City Hall
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West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

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October 7, 2008

Honorable Members of the
West Allis Common Council
7525 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis WI 53214

Subject: Establishment of a West Allis Community Center Task Force

Dear Common Council Members:

This letter is to inform you that I have formally established a City of West Allis Community Center Task Force. The Task Force is being created at the suggestion of several community individuals, led principally by Joanie Luedke, Program Director of the WA-WM Family Resource Center. Two preliminary, organizational meetings have been held this year to start the discussions.

The purpose of this Task Force is to study the need and economic feasibility of establishing a West Allis Community Center. A Community Center could provide services to all citizens in our community through programs and activities that would improve the quality of life and foster a sense of neighborhood, community, and family. The Community Center would serve children, teenagers, young adults, adults, seniors, and families in an effort to promote healthy lifestyles and positive changes. The Community Center would offer guidance and advocacy, stimulate public interest, and raise awareness of social and domestic problems, all for needed or less fortunate individuals and families. All the programs and activities would be coordinated and partnerships developed with other city, county, state, federal, and private organizations and resources to maximize the best possible use of resources.

If the Task Force determines there is a need for the Community Center and it is economically feasible, the second phase of the Task Force work would include studying alternatives for organization, location, funding, marketing, programming, and partnerships.

Included with this letter is a membership list for the Task Force. It includes a variety of individual and organizational representatives from a broad basis in the community.

Honorable Members of the
West Allis Common Council
October 7, 2008
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Also enclosed is a document prepared by Joanie Luedke, which outlines her ideas for the Task Force, as well as her perceived mission, activities, events, celebrations, and programs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Your confirmation of these appointments will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dan Devine,
Mayor

DD:PMZ:jfw

cc: Joanie Luedke
Paul M. Ziehler

MYR\CORR\CC.WACC TF.100708

West Allis Community Center Task Force

| | |
|--|--|
| Joanie Luedke | Family Resource Center |
| Mayor Dan Devine | City of West Allis |
| Judge Paul Murphy | City of West Allis |
| Paul M. Ziehler | City of West Allis |
| Mike Pertmer | City of West Allis |
| Steve Hook, or Designee | WA Fire Dept. |
| Terry Brandenburg | WA Health Department/Senior Center |
| Brian Mason (Police Chief's Designee) | WA Police Department |
| To Be Determined (Reinke) | WA Common Council |
| To Be Determined (Barczak) | WA Common Council |
| Mike Koszalka (Library Bd. Pres. Designee) | WA Library |
| Patrick Schloss (Dev. Dir. Designee) | City of West Allis |
| Diane Brandt | WA-WM Chamber of Commerce |
| Anthony Staskunas | State Assembly |
| Peggy Miller | Family Resource Center |
| Kathy Burkart-Lemke | Family Resource Center |
| Joyce O'Donnell | West Allis Community Improvement Foundation |
| Sherry Saiki | WA Rotary |
| Nancy Rhodes | WA Rotary |
| Jim Mejchar | WA Rotary, Seniors (Lilac Bus) |
| Lisa Colla | WA-WM School District, Elementary School Teacher |
| Kathy MacDonald | WA-WM School District, Hale H.S. Principal |
| Barb Suleiman | WA-WM School Board |
| Shelly Strasser | WA-WM School Admin./Recreation Dept. |
| Pat Morris | WA-WM Chamber Education Foundation |
| Angela Mechesky | PTA Council |
| Brian Preiss | Downtown West Allis BID |
| Pat Wolfe | WA Rotary; Woman's Club |
| Mary Shanahan-Spanic | WA Community Media Center |
| Rick Kellar, or Designee | West Allis Memorial Hospital |
| Steve Skanse | Wesleyan Methodist Church |
| Bill Potocic, or Designee | WA Charities |
| Devan Gracyalny | WA Historical Society |
| Doug Johnson | West Allis Citizen |
| Wayne Clark | West Allis Citizen |
| To Be Determined | Bank Representative |
| To Be Determined | Business Representative |
| To Be Determined | Service Club Representative |

WEST ALLIS
COMMUNITY
CENTER

MISSION

Our mission at the West Allis Community Center is to work collaboratively with individuals and other agencies to provide services that will improve the quality of life and foster a sense of neighborhood, community and family for all people.

The Community Center provides programs and services to children, teens, adults, seniors and families in an effort to promote healthy lifestyles and positive changes.

Our unique, comprehensive approach offers others the chance to improve their own lives with the services we provide.

We offer guidance and advocacy to those in need, while providing a comfortable and friendly atmosphere. The Community Center stimulates public interest and concern for less-fortunate individuals, while raising awareness of the social and domestic problems faced by our youth and area residents.

The Community Center embraces the premise that children live better lives when their families are strong, and strong families are strong when they live in communities that connect them to economic opportunities, social networks, and services.

We act as a reliable and valuable link for donors wishing to help those in need, as we have been providing efficient and effective services for over 10 years through the Family Resource Center.

Ordinary families are extraordinarily important to our community!



DONOR RECOGNITION

We will have painted wooden doves that will have the name(s) of the person or organization/foundation to recognize all donations to the Community Center. The Dove is the traditional symbol of Hope and Peace: Symbolic of the environment that we want our Community Center to offer. Colored ribbons on the doves will signify the different levels of giving.

A HOME FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Community Center would give a permanent home to our many Community Organizations that do so many things to support West Allis citizens. These organizations would have a place to hold meetings, have luncheons, host fundraisers and benefits and even hold town hall meetings.

PROGRAMS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

FAMILY DROP-IN PROGRAM (Play Groups)

The Family Drop-In Program will provide families with the opportunity to come together in a comfortable and creative environment and enjoy free-choice play, art activities, individual and group games, circle time and a snack.

*****Regular playgroups are from 10:00am – 12:00pm**

Objectives for this program include:

- Families are given the freedom from home responsibilities and everyday routines and can focus on enjoying each other and building strong, healthy relationships.
- This is a voluntary program where families can come as often as they wish. No pre-registration is required.
- Families can interact with one another to build their own support systems and make new friends.
- Children and parents/grandparents/care-givers are given the opportunity to share in experiences that they may be hesitant to do by themselves at home (paint, play-doh and other messy but necessary sensory experiences)

SPECIAL EVENTS AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

During regular morning play groups we will continue to offer Special Events and Holiday Celebrations. For Special Events we may bring in a Storyteller, do a workshop, or celebrate a specific theme we are working on in play groups. We will continue to celebrate Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

The Center will also offer Special Events and some Holiday Celebrations in the evening.

FIELD TRIPS

The Center will continue the tradition of the Family Resource Center and do field trips with the regular morning play groups.

EVENING PLAY GROUPS

The Center will offer evening play groups for families one night a week. This is a great opportunity for children to bring siblings, dads, moms and others to "show off" where they go during the day. It is also an opportunity for children that are now in school to come back and play with the children that they grew up with at the Family Resource Centers. Parents who work during the day also have this opportunity to experience this program with their children. Evening play groups are recommended for children under 9-years-old.

SHAKE RATTLE & GROW

(Each Session runs for 1 hr/once a week for 9 weeks)

We invite you and your child, up to the age of 5, to be a part of a very special music and movement program created to stimulate your child's development while celebrating and nurturing the incredible bond you share. The program offers your child an assortment of activities to promote language development, social interaction, and cognitive development and to awaken your child's imagination.

This is a program geared toward infants through preschoolers.

Grandparents Welcome!!

GRANDPARENT SUPPORT

In our community, many grandparents are kept busy helping to raise their grandchildren and some are doing it on a full-time basis. The Center will offer workshops to help them navigate their way through the education and judicial systems. We will also connect them to resources that can help with medical insurance and medical treatment questions that pertain to their grandchildren. We will also look into offering a support group for grandparents raising grandchildren.

****Grandparent Survival Packs:** Many grandparents provide childcare when kids are home sick from school or during school breaks. It is often difficult to keep the children entertained. We have a "Survival Pack" that may help. These packs will be provided for grandparents in our community to pick up and use at home. They will include a book, card game, easy recipes, coupons, crafts, snack ideas, game ideas and a list of "free" activities in the area and surrounding communities.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

TEEN TIME – COMFORT ZONE

It is important to our community that we provide a place for teens to go and just hang out. They need a place where there are adults that will listen, maybe jump in and play a game of pick-up basketball or kickball or even help with homework.

Suggested activities:

Pool Table

Video Games (DDR & Wii)

Coffee House with Beverages and Snacks

Art Room/Corner complete with supplies for teens to express themselves (Possibly bring in someone to do an art therapy class once in a while).

Music is very important to teens. We want to give them a place to listen to music and also a place that they can play for others (if they would like).

TEEN SUPPORT GROUPS

Provide a safe, friendly environment for teens to participate in support groups with peers that are experiencing the same challenges that they are. Many teens are intimidated by support groups that are held in hospitals or schools. The Center is a “neutral” and “non-threatening” environment.

Possible Support Groups:

- *Depression and/or Anxiety *Eating Disorders *ATODA
- *Grief Support for those that have lost a parent or sibling
- *Victims of Teen Dating Violence *Victims of Abuse *Dealing with Divorce
- *Teen Parenting Issues *Sibling/Parent Issues and/or Challenges

GENDER-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS FOR GIRLS

These Girls Circle Groups promote resilience in adolescent girls. They are designed to provide a strengths-based female responsive program for girls and create a safe space to address risky behaviors, build on protective factors, and improve relationships among girls. The Girls Circle experience introduces gender-relevant and culturally responsive themes and activities that build skills in a format that interests and engages girls. They are led by a trained facilitator. The focus of these groups is to encourage adolescent girls to:

- Enhance judgment and critical thinking skills
- Stay true to themselves and value their perceptions
- Make wise and healthy choices/decisions
- Maintain authentic connections with peers and adults
- Hold on to their voices
- Counter trends of self-doubt
- Broaden their definitions of beauty and womanhood
- Voice their ideas and opinions in a safe environment
- Respect themselves and others

MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING SITE

For several different areas of Mental Health it is often difficult to obtain an assessment in a timely manner. Teenagers are often brought through our judicial system and we know that they need treatment for addictions, but the screening process must take place before they can get into a program for treatment. Through collaborations with mental health facilities we would offer screenings for teenagers for drugs and alcohol. There is also a program through Aurora that does suicide screenings at locations such as a Community Center.

HOMEWORK HELP & SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

There will be adults available to help with homework. Students may also want to form their own "study groups" to meet at the Center. We will have computers available with Internet access. We will also have people available that can help students work on scholarships and search the Internet for scholarships. There is a great deal of money that goes untouched every year because no one applies for it. We will partner with the two high schools to help as many students as possible.

RESUMES AND BUDGETING

Teens often need assistance filling out job applications and putting together resumes. They can get help at the Center. With all the demands on our youth today, they often do not have time in school to learn the basic skills of financial survival. We will offer workshops on budgeting, keeping a checkbook/debit card, the dangers of credit cards, and how the cell phone companies really get you with large bills and how to avoid these situations.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

This program would be in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, the W.A. Police Department and the City of West Allis (Judicial Division). Businesses in the community would contact the Center and register specific dates and times that they need students for "community service" type projects (ex: inventory, large mailings, holiday events/activities, sorting, etc.). Students would then have the opportunity to sign up through the Center for these projects. The Center would keep track of the hours for the students, provide letters for the businesses to sign for the students, and take responsibility for the students to show up for the project. Many students need Community Service hours for a variety of reasons. This would help both students and the business community.

ADULT PROGRAMS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

West Allis has more reported cases of domestic violence than all of Milwaukee County. The Center would offer an Outreach Program to victims of domestic violence. We can partner with Community Advocates and the Woman's Center so that we do not "reinvent the wheel" and so that we are able to provide a quality program for our community.

There is also a need in our community for some type of support for children living in homes of domestic violence.

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

We have many adults in our community that are illiterate and we can offer a program for them in the evenings. Workshops will also be offered on 1) Reading aloud to your children; 2) Reading Strategies; 3) Helping your kids with reading at home; 4) How to get good reading materials at a low cost. We plan to create a "Bring a Book/Take a Book" Library System. We can also do book clubs for families. Special Events that have literacy themes are also planned.

PARENTING CLASSES

Parenting classes can be offered through the Health Department and Parenting Network. We can bring in guest speakers on issues that affect families and concern parents. Parents will be able to give input on what topics they would like information and work sessions on.

CALLING ALL DADS

This program was started by the WA/WM Family Resource Center in October of 1998. The focus is to get dads, step-dads, father-figures, and grandpas more involved in the every day lives of our children. Quarterly workshops are offered where the dad, grandpa, step-dad or father-figure comes with the child/children and participates in a morning or afternoon of activities. We usually include some type of games, a craft, interactive activities and always food. Sometimes we have special entertainment as well. This program is offered on Saturdays.

SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES

OPERATION: FAMILIES FIRST

We have many deployed service members in our community. Parents and spouses of military members often feel isolated and fearful during times of deployment. As a community we could support these families in many different ways through the Community Center. We can partner with schools and different organizations or groups to do fundraisers, care packages, letters to service members, and do special things for holidays. The Community Center could also be a place for support groups for parents of deployed military members and spouses. This would give West Allis another opportunity to say "thanks" to our troops and their families for the support they give to their country. Remember, behind every military member is a family.

RESOURCE & REFERRAL

We will work with the WAWM Chamber of Commerce to assist families in locating the businesses and services that they need. We will put together another "Resource Book", which the Family Resource Center created several years ago. Businesses and organizations will be able to use the Center to notify the community of upcoming events and specials. We can do "promotional" activities and have sponsorship programs for different events. This would give businesses in the community another way to reach the citizens.

WEST ALLIS COMMUNITY CENTER TASK FORCE

This Task Force will follow the successful model of the Early Childhood Community Task Force (which started the Family Resource Centers, 3-To-Get-Ready, and Two-For-The-Show here in West Allis). We have invited community representatives to support the diverse needs of our population here in West Allis. We want to provide services to all of the citizens in our community through an assortment of programs and workshops. We will also partner with city, county and state organizations and agencies to bring the best resources and programs to our community.

The focus of Task Force Members will be to set goals (both short term and long term), find and secure a location for the Center and develop working groups for funding, programming, and staffing. The Task Force is made up of individuals who are an important part of the West Allis Community and who want to do what is best for the children, youth, families, and seniors here. They want to help to make a difference to make positive changes.

This Community Center will be open to all of West Allis and would offer programs for all ages including infants and seniors. We will share our programming ideas and form collaborations with surrounding communities. One of our goals is to be able to offer the West Allis Community Center as a "model" for other communities throughout the state.

Contact Person: Joanie Luedke (414-430-2207)
Program Director of WAWM Family Resource Centers

*Be the change you wish to
See in this world
-Gandhi*