Community Center Advisory Committee

Report on Public Feedback for the Proposed New Community Center

August 2019

Summary
The Community Center Advisory Committee has worked diligently to engage the public regarding the new community center.

Over the past several months, they have held eight formal public input and outreach sessions, published multiple updates in the Township E-News Letter and Plainfield Profile, shared displays and information on-site for Northview Senior Program members, conducted an online survey, provided a report and update to the Township Board, and utilized social media to communicate the work of the Committee.

Overall, comments were very supportive of the project and affirmed the need for a larger facility that better serves our community. In addition, there were a number of more detailed comments and questions which are categorized as outside the scope of the current committee work, but information that will be useful to the project moving forward. Questions and comments were related to funding, location, architectural design specifics, and the Northview Senior Program fee structure (not set by PCT).

Background
In the Fall 2018, the Plainfield Charter Township Board of Trustees established the Community Center Advisory Committee to complete the following charge:

- Provide guidance regarding facility needs and design
• Explore existing facilities of similar function, size, or scope
• Participate in stakeholder meetings and solicit feedback from residents
• Serve as a sounding board to staff in the review and development of the new Community Center

Beginning in February 2019, the Committee which is comprised of five Plainfield township residents, three township trustees, the Northview Senior Program Director, the Finance Director for Northview Public Schools, and the Township Superintendent began their work to review options related to the Community Center.

Following the completion of multiple site visits as well as visiting the existing Plainfield Community Center, the Committee developed Design Statements to help focus on those characteristics and design elements that are most important to them. An online survey was then completed to seek feedback on the design statements. Following that process, a conceptual design plan for the new Community Center was developed and presented to the Board of Trustees on May 28, 2019.

Throughout the Committee’s work there have been multiple opportunities for public feedback. This report provides a summary of those opportunities as well as the feedback that was received.

Public Education/Outreach Process:
The Community Center Advisory Committee established a subcommittee to focus solely on efforts to promote public outreach and feedback. The subcommittee planned and attended a number of engagement activities on behalf of the full Committee of which nearly all of the members attended the various opportunities.

The Committee utilized multiple methods to engage the public during this feedback process. The Committee held in-person/one-on-one discussions, group meetings, provided updates in the Township weekly e-news letter, provided a “comment-box” at the Community Center, conducted an online survey, and provided opportunities for residents to provide feedback to a dedicated email address.

The specific public engagement efforts include the following:

• Online Survey to receive comments regarding design principles which yielded 171 individual survey responses.
• Presentation to the Board of Trustees on May 28, 2019 at the Township Board meeting regarding the design principles and conceptual design plan.
• On May 29, 30, and 31, members of the Outreach Subcommittee were onsite in the morning at the Community/Senior center with a display and handouts. The purpose was to share the conceptual design plan and address any questions that individuals may have. These were informal opportunities to engage with the members of the Northview Senior Program.
• Presentation to Northview Senior Program Members - June 24 @ 3pm
• Presentation to Northview Senior Program Members - June 24 @ 4pm
• Presentation to Northview Senior Program Members - June 25 @ 3pm
• Presentation to Northview Senior Program Members - June 25 @ 3pm
• Presentation to Northview Senior Program Members - June 25 @ 3pm
• Presentation to Northview Senior Program Members - June 26 @ 3pm
• Presentation to North East Business Association
• Presentation to North Valley Condo Association
• July 8, 2019 - Update at Township Board Meeting Regarding Public Engagement Efforts and Upcoming Opportunities
• Public Outreach meeting date, July 11 @3PM
• Public Outreach meeting date, July 25 @ 6PM
• Public Outreach meeting date, July 25 @ 7 PM
• Public Outreach meeting date, July 31 @ 6pm

In addition to these in-person meetings, updates and information were provided via the following and where possible, a copy of that communication is located on pages 5-14.

• Township Facebook Page
• Plainfield Profile, Mailed to all tax payers in the Township
• Weekly E-News Letter
• Updates in the Northview Senior Program Newsletter
• Postcard Mailing to all Northview Senior Program Members for Input Sessions

Summary of Community Feedback
The following comments, questions, or opinions were documented throughout the public outreach process. Some of the feedback was related to issues outside the scope of the Committee work and related to future issues, future decisions, or other policy level decisions which may need to be addressed in the future. The comments have been grouped together to assist in their review. The comments are in no particular order.

Overall, many of the comments received were extremely supportive of the Community Center and there were a lot of questions about the details of the facility, partnership with Northview, how it will be funded, and where it will be located.

Facility Conceptual Design/Future Design:
• It’s Great!
• It’s big.
• Is it too big?
• The Fitness area should be bigger.
• One floor building is better. Otherwise, you are going to need a huge elevator.
• What about green spaces? Has there been thought about the outside of the building and space?
• The kitchen (if there is to be one) should be a large kitchen not a “warming kitchen” whatever that term means.
• Please keep the shuffleboard courts.
• Add pickleball courts.
• Locate the demo and warming kitchen adjacent to each other so that that can share resources.
• Doors should be easy to open.
• Acoustics for room separation should be a consideration.
• Hearing loop is essential.
• Stairs in the facility should be easy to climb.
• Temperature controls in each room.
• Furniture purchased should keep senior comfort needs in mind.
• Stage should be able to accommodate a 5-piece band.
• Flooring in fitness areas should be flooring made for fitness areas.
• Walking track is great, should have dedicated lane for slower walkers.
• More restrooms.
• Movement of people throughout the facility to quickly enable them to arrive and depart is essential.
• Facility should have storage space for “Maggies Attic” and that space should be located on the first floor.
• Should have heated sidewalks.

**Impact to Program Fees/Resident vs. Non-Resident Fees:** Note: Program fees are currently set by Northview Senior Programs not the Township Board.

• Will my fees increase to be a member of Northview Senior Programs?
• If there is a tax increase, will non-residents have to pay more to make up for what I have to pay so the non-residents can use the facility too?
• Will residents get preferential status in registering for programming?

**Timeline/Location:** Note: Timeline and location decisions were outside the scope of the Committee.

• What is the timeline between now and breaking ground in 2020?
• When will it be built?
• Where will it be located?
• Parking, Parking, parking!
• Concern that added traffic could create congestion in neighborhood adjacent to Northview Campus.
• Should have adequate handicap spaces and located near building.
• Shared parking if on Northview campus.
• Consider parking design to limit distance from doors.

**Funding:** Note: Funding was outside the scope of the Committee.

• Who pays?
• Will Northview pay for a portion of it?
• If partnership with Northview Schools falls apart or their millage fails, what is “Plan B”?
• The taxpayers of Plainfield Township may not want to pay additional taxes for a new facility.
• Use existing funds from the Plainfield Township budget to fund any improvements, additions, or a new Community Center
• Outsource the Community Center to a private company so they can run it as a business & not as a government run facility funded by all taxpayers.
• Only charge the actual taxpayers who use the facility. Fees could be annual, monthly, or daily. Just don't make people pay for a facility they may never use.
• Negotiate a settlement on the PFAS Lawsuit with Wolverine Worldwide & 3M that includes a new Community Center.
• Between Wolverine Worldwide, 3M, & the Belmont YMCA, they could develop a first class Community Center facility without the need for Plainfield Township to increase taxes on the local residents. Speaking for many friends & family members who reside in Plainfield Township, the property taxes are already too high.
• Kent County Senior Tax should be used for the Center.

**Other Comments:**

• Plainfield needs buses.
• Consideration should be given to seniors, having children in the facility changes the facility.
• Facility should be staffed with greeter/front desk.
• Presently we have a Senior Center geared toward seniors. This has now become a Community Center geared toward all ages - babies to 99. Every phase of life brings different perspectives. The proposed “building” seems geared to the younger generation. Too big!
• I think it would be wonderful if the community center also offers other community programs in addition to senior programming.
• I think it would be great to have family/community events to encourage community members to connect with one another - such as a movie night, game night, etc. I would love to engage with a community garden!
• A partnership with the schools rec center and adult ed classes sounds great - it’s great to have fitness equipment and classes, but also other class offerings such as intro to photography, canvas painting class, poetry class, etc.
• A youth center component could offer a safe space for teens for those that don’t engage in sports or extra curricular activities, as well as for summer engagement.

Overall, it was evident from the positive feedback received from the Northview Senior Program members that the current facility does not meet the current needs. They were excited about the new and improved facility.

There continue to be questions, as noted in the comments above, regarding details that were outside the scope of the Community Center Advisory Committee scope of work. However, given that we received the feedback we felt it was important to share these thoughts with the Township Board as you consider your next steps in the process.

The Committee looks forward to continuing to support the efforts to develop a new Community Center.

Note: Attached are a sampling of the various communications which were utilized to communicate the work of the Community Center Advisory Committee and the opportunities for public feedback.

Plainfield Profile – Fall 2018 - Sent to all property owners prior to creation of Committee
2019 Community Center Advisory Committee
Communications by Date

January 30, 2019 – Township E-News Letter

Community Center Committee Selection Complete

During its meeting Monday night, the Township Board appointed five residents and three Board members to serve on the newly-formed Community Center Committee. The residents appointed are Deb Havens, Bob Smith, Nancy Wood, Barbara Jeltema and Michael Mitchell. The Township Board members serving on the committee will be Bill Brinkman, Sue Morrow and Jack Hagedorn.

The residents and board members will also be joined by Northview Public Schools Finance Director Julie Byslma, Northview Seniors Director Christine Friedt and Cameron Van Wyngarden, superintendent of Plainfield Township.

The committee will provide input regarding the needs and design of a potential new facility, exploring existing facilities of similar function, size and scope. Members will also gather input from other Plainfield residents to ensure the needs of the public are addressed.

Their kickoff meeting will be mid-February and will be open to the public. Stay tuned for more updates.

February 6, 2019 – Township E-News Letter

Community Center Committee Meeting on Feb. 12

The first meeting of the new Community Center Committee will be held on Feb. 12th at 10 a.m. at Plainfield Township Hall. The residents appointed are Deb Havens, Bob Smith, Nancy Wood, Barbara Jeltema and Michael Mitchell. The Township Board members serving on the committee will be Bill Brinkman, Sue Morrow and Jack Hagedorn.

The residents and board members will also be joined by Northview Public Schools Finance Director Julie Byslma, Northview Seniors Director Christine Friedt and Cameron Van Wyngarden, superintendent of Plainfield Township.

The committee will discuss the vision for the Community Center as well as set their regular meeting schedule. In addition, the committee will begin discussing the ways in which to seek out broad community input on the project through surveys and public outreach meetings.
February 20, 2019 – Township E-News Letter

Community Center Advisory Committee Focuses on Vision

The Community Center Advisory Committee met for the first time last week to begin discussions surrounding the planning for the Community Center. The committee discussed its vision and brainstormed about what members would like to see at the Center, including flexible program and community space.

Next week, committee members will visit several community centers in West Michigan to learn more about their facilities. Each visit will be followed by a session for committee members to review what they appreciated about the facility, what attributes might transfer to Plainfield in our quest to best meet the needs of Plainfield Township residents.

Their visits and discussions will result in a conceptual design plan that will be presented to the Township Board later this year.

The Committee will be developing a formal way to provide input on the Center but for now, to share your thoughts, email comments@plainfieldmi.org. Agenda and meeting notes are available here.

February 27, 2019 – Township E-News Letter

Advisory Committee Tours Local Community Centers

Yesterday, the Community Center Advisory Committee toured two different community center spaces, one in Kentwood and one in Byron Township. Committee members were able to see the diversity of features available and gather facility and program ideas that will best serve the needs of our community.

Visiting these spaces will provide invaluable insights as the committee works to develop recommendations to enhance the community center in Plainfield Township. Future site visits are scheduled in the coming months that will allow committee members to gather information from other communities.

If you’d like to share your thoughts on the Plainfield Community Center, drop us a message at comments@plainfieldmi.org.
Community Center Advisory Committee Visits More Centers

On Monday afternoon, the Community Center Advisory Committee visited two more community/senior centers in West Michigan. The first stop was Georgetown Township’s senior center in Jenison, and the second was the Wyoming Senior Center.

Committee members got to see activity spaces, conference rooms, kitchen set-ups, art rooms and different social areas within the centers. Touring the additional facilities provided the Committee with a better understanding of the similarities and differences between the community and senior centers that they had visited and what building features may be desirable to incorporate into the planning process for the Plainfield Community Center.

At their next meeting, the Committee will continue to debrief their site visit experiences and will begin working on their community outreach plans to gain feedback directly from community members.

If you have any suggestions about the Community Center, please email comments@plainfieldmi.org.

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COMMITTEE STUDIES NEEDS FOR A NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

The Plainfield Township Board of Trustees has identified a need for a new community center and have placed it as a top priority in the current Township strategic plan. To achieve this goal, the Board has established a citizen committee to explore the needs for a new facility and present recommendations back to the Board.

In March, committee members visited four different community and senior programming spaces of similar function, size and scope in West Michigan as part of their due diligence regarding the design of a new facility.

Committee members reviewed and evaluated activity spaces, conference rooms, kitchen set-ups, art rooms and different social areas within the centers.

Touring the additional facilities provides the Committee with a better understanding of the similarities and differences between the community and senior centers they had visited – what works, what doesn’t and what building features may be desirable to incorporate into the planning process for the Plainfield Community Center.

The committee will also work to understand the wants and needs of the community and will begin a series of surveys and workshops to gather feedback.

If you have any suggestions about the Community Center, please email comments@plainfieldmi.org.
The Community Center Advisory Committee Wants Your Input!

In 2018, the Plainfield Township Board established a strategic plan for the next three years. The plan guides township efforts and provides direction on a variety of topics. One of the priorities identified in the strategic plan was to build and replace the existing Plainfield Township Community Center, which is the home of the Northview Senior Citizens program. To effectively evaluate, research and review what a Community Center would mean in Plainfield Township, the Board created the Community Center Advisory Committee.

This short survey will let the Committee know if it’s on the right track. The Committee expects to report to the Board at the end of May and kick-off more public engagement opportunities both online and in-person during public visioning sessions. Thank you for taking the time to shape the next Plainfield Township Community Center!

Click here to take the survey.
Plainfield Charter Township
May 9 · 📣

In 2018, the Plainfield Township Board established a strategic plan for the next three years. The plan guides Township efforts and provides direction on a variety of topics. One of the priorities identified in the strategic plan was to build and replace the existing Plainfield Township Community Center, which is the home of the Northview Senior Citizens program. To effectively evaluate, research and review what a Community Center would mean in Plainfield Township, the Board c... See More

May 15, 2019 – Township E-News Letter

Community Center Advisory Committee Seeking Feedback

Since early 2019, the Community Center Advisory Committee has been working to effectively evaluate, research and review how a new community center could benefit Plainfield Township residents. As a next step in the process, the committee has identified the characteristics of a community center and would like feedback from residents through an online survey.

So far, we have had 87 responses, which equates to over 4.4 hours of public comments - please keep the responses coming! Please remember, the survey closes on May 23 at 11:59 p.m.

Following this public feedback process, the committee will be providing an interim report to the Plainfield Township Board on May 28 regarding the design characteristics and conceptual programming layout of the space. This report will kick off more public engagement opportunities both online and in-person regarding the conceptual programming space and characteristics of the center. A final report will be made to the full board in the fall.

Thank you for taking the time to help shape the next Plainfield Township Community Center! Click here to take the survey.
May 20, 2019 – Township Facebook

Don't forget to take the Community Center Advisory Committee survey! This short survey will let the Committee know if it's on the right track in designing the Community Center. The Committee expects to report to the Board at the end of May and kick-off more public engagement opportunities both online and in-person during public visioning sessions. Thank you for taking the time to shape the next Plainfield Township Community Center. Click below to take the survey - the survey will end on Thursday, May 23 at 11:59 p.m.

May 22, 2019 – Township Facebook

Tomorrow is your last chance to take the survey! Help our Community Center Advisory Committee evaluate and prioritize what you want in a community center by taking a short online survey. Following this public feedback process, the committee will be providing an interim report to the Plainfield Township Board on May 28 regarding the design characteristics and conceptual programming layout of the space. The committee will host more public engagement opportunities both online ... See More
Community Center Advisory Committee Seeking Feedback

Tomorrow is your last chance to take the survey! Help our Community Center Advisory Committee evaluate and prioritize what you want in a community center by taking a short online survey.

Following this public feedback process, the committee will be providing an interim report to the Plainfield Township Board on May 28 regarding the design characteristics and conceptual programming layout of the space. The committee will host more public engagement opportunities both online and in-person regarding the characteristics of the new center. A final report will be made to the Township Board in the fall.

Click here to take the survey, which takes about 15 minutes. Please remember, the survey closes on Thursday, May 23 at 11:59 p.m.

You can also access the survey on Plainfield Charter Township’s Facebook page – thanks for taking the time to shape the next Plainfield Township Community Center!

May 23, 2019 – Township Facebook

Today is your last chance to take the survey!

Help our Community Center Advisory Committee evaluate and prioritize what you want in a community center by taking a short online survey.

Following this public feedback process, the committee will be providing an interim report to the Plainfield Township Board on May 28 regarding the design characteristics and conceptual programming layout of the space. ...

See More
Community Center Plans Presented to Township Board

At last night’s Board meeting, the Community Center Advisory Committee gave an interim report to the Township Board regarding the new Community Center that will serve as a gathering point for Plainfield Township and host Northview Senior Programming.

Engineering and consulting firm FTC&H helped the committee finalize design statements and a conceptual planning diagram that includes a banquet area, gymnasium with a walking track, classrooms and kitchen. The Township has also been working with Northview Public Schools regarding its interest in a community space.

Other opportunities for public feedback through public visioning sessions will take place this summer.

Click [here](#) to view the full report given to the Board or submit your thoughts.
Community Center Advisory Committee Shares Concepts

The Community Center Advisory Committee continues to seek feedback regarding the conceptual design for the new community center.

This week, the Committee held four dedicated presentations for nearly 200 Northview Senior Program Members that are interested in the project. The presentation included an overview of the process of the Committee, the design statements and the conceptual design for the program areas.

Members provided great comments and feedback to the Committee which will then be shared with the Board in the fall.

The Committee also presented to the North East Business Association last week and will continue seeking public feedback. If you have comments or questions, please submit them via email to comments@plainfieldmi.org.

Click [here](#) to view the full report given to the Board in May or submit your thoughts.
News You Can Use

Update from Plainfield Charter Township

Northview Senior Citizens Program Out-Grows Space -
Community Center Advisory Committee Created By Township Board

As part of the Strategic Plan for 2019-2021, the Township Board has identified a need for a
new community center that will host the Northview Senior Program, which has overgrown its
existing space on Grand River Drive. To achieve this goal, the Board has established an 11-
member Citizen Advisory Committee to provide guidance regarding facility needs and design,
explore existing facilities of similar function, size or scope, and participate in stakeholder
meetings and solicit feedback from residents.

Soon after the committee formed, the committee members visited four different community
and senior centers in West Michigan. They have viewed a variety of activity spaces,
conference rooms, kitchen set-ups, art rooms and different social areas within the centers. The
tours provide the Committee with a better understanding of the similarities and differences
between the community and senior centers they had visited – what works, what doesn’t and
what building features may be desirable to incorporate into the planning process for the
Plainfield Community Center. The Committee has also toured the existing program space for
Northview Seniors and met with the Program Director to seek feedback and information about
the current needs and wants.

In the near future, the committee will begin its public outreach process to gain feedback and
information from the public about the Community Center and the features and characteristics
that they would like to have in a Community Center. In addition, we anticipate several public
workshops to provide feedback on design characteristics and conceptual drawings. If you
would like to provide comments or feedback now or in the future, you may email those to
comments@plainfieldmi.gov.

All members of the Community are invited to sign up for the weekly e-newsletter. https://
plainfieldmi.org/get_involved/subscribe_to_the_newsletter.php

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See next page
Community Center Advisory Committee to Hold Its First Public Feedback Session

Last week, the Community Center Advisory Committee hosted nearly 200 members from Northview Seniors to learn more about the design that has been developed for the new Community Center which hosts the Northview Senior Program.

As a next step in the public feedback process, the advisory group will hold public sessions where residents can attend to learn more about the project, ask questions and provide thoughts and feedback.

Members of the Committee and the architects from FTC&H will share information about the design process and recommendations for the Community Center. The meetings will take place at the current Community and Senior Center at 5255 Grand River Drive. Meetings will be on:

- Thursday, July 11 at 3 p.m.
- Thursday, July 25 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 31 at 6 p.m.

The full report is available here and comments can be submitted via email to comments@plainfieldmi.org.

Community Center Committee Seeking Resident Feedback

Starting tomorrow, the Community Center Advisory Committee will hold public sessions so residents can learn more about the proposed new project, ask questions and provide their thoughts and feedback.

Members of the Committee and the architects from FTC&H will share information about the design process and recommendations for the new Community Center during a series of three meetings. The meetings will take place at the current Community Center at 5255 Grand River Drive. Meetings will be on:

- Thursday, July 11 at 3 p.m.
- Thursday, July 25 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 31 at 6 p.m.

The full report is available here and comments can be submitted via email to comments@plainfieldmi.org.
Community Center Committee Seeking Resident Feedback

Next week, the Community Center Advisory Committee will hold its next round of public sessions so residents can learn more about the proposed new project, ask questions and provide their thoughts and feedback.

Members of the Committee and the architects from FTC&H will present information about the design process and recommendations for the new Community Center during a series of three meetings. The meetings will take place at the current Community Center at 5255 Grand River Drive. Meetings will be on:

- Thursday, July 25 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 31 at 6 p.m.

The full report is available here and comments can be submitted via email to comments@plainfieldmi.org.

Community Center Committee Seeking Resident Feedback

The Community Center Advisory Committee will hold its next round of public sessions on Thursday so residents can learn more about the proposed new project, ask questions and provide their thoughts and feedback.

Members of the Committee and the architects from FTC&H will present information about the design process and recommendations for the new Community Center during a series of three meetings. The meetings will take place at the current Community Center at 5255 Grand River Drive. The final three meetings will be on:

- Thursday, July 25 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 31 at 6 p.m.

The full report is available here and comments can be submitted via email to comments@plainfieldmi.org.
**News You Can Use**

**Update from Plainfield Charter Township**

In late June, nearly 200 members of the Northview Senior Citizens program attended presentations by the Community Center Advisory Committee to review the conceptual design plan for the new Community Center. This presentation followed several months of work by the Committee which included site visits to neighboring community and senior centers, thorough review of program needs with the Northview Senior Citizens Program Director, and discussion on how the Township can partner with Northview Public Schools.

The conceptual design for the facility includes areas for senior programs, a banquet room that can be divided to accommodate large or small events, lectures, or exhibition spaces, a walking track, meeting spaces, and controlled access to the facility (for community rental/events).

The Committee is expanding the public feedback process in July and will provide a report to the Board of Trustees this fall.

The Committee is greatly appreciative of Northview Senior Citizens members for taking time to provide their important feedback. Thank You!