

UPPER ARLINGTON SENIOR ASSOCIATION

1945 Ridgeview Road
Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221
Phone: 614-583-5320

December 31, 2020

To the Upper Arlington City Council and Community Center Feasibility Task Force:

Re: Endorsement of Support for the Community Center Feasibility Study

Please accept this letter as an endorsement of support from the Upper Arlington Senior Advisory Council for the Community Center Feasibility Study conducted by the Community Center Feasibility Task Force.

As an advisory board for the Upper Arlington Senior Association, members of the Senior Advisory Council (SAC) have closely followed the study process since it began in the summer of 2019 and participated in various forums. Regular updates have been provided to the SAC and the Senior Center members from Parks & Recreation Director Debbie McLaughlin and her team as the work has progressed. Task Force Member, Linda Mauger, and City Manager Steve Schoeny joined our December 2, 2020 meeting and provided a detailed update on the study process. The SAC subsequently voted unanimously to approve a Motion of Support for the Task Force process, findings and recommendations.

We appreciate the thoroughness of the process and in particular the specific opportunities for senior adults to participate. The SAC and Senior Center members realize the community center is intended to serve as a multi-generational facility that includes some dedicated space for seniors, informal gathering spaces, new indoor recreation opportunities, and a better-quality facility for seniors as well as all community members.

In addition to including facility amenities and program space, the Task Force also took into consideration financial models that provide for construction without increasing taxes, cost recovery goals that continue the City's investment in recreation services, a membership fee structure for seniors, and the need for a financial assistance program. We appreciate these considerations so that older adults will be able to enjoy this community asset.

The Task Force is to be commended for their process and for taking the time necessary to identify the interests and support of all residents and especially seniors for a community center. This is an unprecedented and exciting opportunity to add recreational, fitness, sporting and social amenities not previously available to our residents, and to provide them all within one convenient location. All members of the SAC are grateful for the opportunity to serve the Upper Arlington Senior Center members and we are excited that we are close to realizing a long-held dream for our community.

The SAC encourages City Council to follow through with the recommendations from the Task Force, by seeking voter support for an Upper Arlington Community Center next May. Our Association is willing to offer any assistance necessary to support this initiative.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joseph Anastasi
Senior Advisory Council President