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February 11, 2021

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To the Upper Arlington City Council:

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Re: Endorsement of Support for the Community Center Feasibility Study

Please accept this letter as an endorsement of support from the Upper Arlington Commission on Aging (UACO) for the Community Center Feasibility Study conducted by the Community Center Feasibility Task Force.

The UACO serves as a sounding board and an important resource in the community. Our mission is to serve as the informed voice empowering, educating and enriching the lives of Upper Arlington residents as we age. Members of our Commission have closely followed the study process since it began in the summer of 2019 and participated in various forums. Regular updates were provided to the UACO from 2019 Council President Kip Greenhill, Council member Michele Hoyle and Parks & Recreation Director Debbie McLaughlin as the work has progressed. In response to the Task Force process, findings and recommendations, the UACO voted unanimously to approve a Motion of Support for the Community Center Feasibility Study recommendations from the Task Force.

We recognize and appreciate the efforts of the Task Force in conducting a thorough and extensive process. Specific elements of the progress and recommendations that support our services include:

- As the UACO aims to serve older adults, community awareness of their services is vital. The concept that the community center serve as a multi-generational gathering space including a resource area and meeting rooms for personalized consultations with seniors and family members will assist in carrying out our mission.
- The thorough process included several opportunities for senior adults to participate and stay informed.
- The current senior center is in need of significant upgrades, requires costly maintenance, limits program opportunities and has limited parking for program participants.
- The Upper Arlington Community Center plans offer some dedicated space for seniors, informal gathering spaces, and new indoor recreation opportunities. The UACO views the new facility as a service improvement for seniors as well as all community members.
- The facility allows for intergenerational programs in which participants can learn from one another expanding programs beyond a senior focus.
- The lobby, senior lounge and meeting rooms allow for formal and informal community engagement in which residents can connect with each other.
- The Kingsdale location for the facility is centralized and offers bus transportation for older adults that may need such services.
- The Task Force recommendations illustrate with City's position to offer diverse sources of funding for development of the facility that does not include an increase of taxes.
- The operating financial models include cost recovery goals that continue the City's investment in recreation services, provides fee structure options for seniors, and recommends a financial assistance program. These considerations are important for older adults to be able to enjoy this community asset.

"The Upper Arlington Commission on Aging serves as the informed voice for empowering, educating, and enriching the lives of Upper Arlington residents as we age."

Mary Beth Cartmille

Emily Clugston

Michelle Crum

Susan DiMichele

Kynthia Droesch

Larae Schraeder

Kip Greenhill,

Ex-Officio

Michele Hoyle,

Ex-Officio

Christine Leyshon,

Ex-Officio

Debbie McLaughlin,

Ex-Officio

As a community center has been brought to a vote of our residents in the past, Commissioners feel the details of this opportunity are different in that the construction and operations can be financed without a tax increase.

The Commissioners feel this facility will serve as a much needed community gathering and resource space and we are excited that we are close to realizing a long-held dream for our community. This is an unprecedented and exciting opportunity to add recreational, fitness, sporting and social amenities not previously available to our residents, and provides them all within one convenient location. The UACOA appreciates City Council's action in seeking voter support for an Upper Arlington Community Center in May. Our Commission is willing to offer any assistance necessary to support this initiative.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katie White', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katie White, Chair
Upper Arlington Commission on Aging