



Date: July 18, 2019

To: Council Members Casper, Close, Hoyle, King, Lynch and Ralph

From: Kip Greenhill, Council President

**RE: Community Center Study Group Update**

As you all know, at Council's final meeting prior to our adjournment for summer recess, we moved two exciting and critical projects forward:

- We authorized Acting City Manager Ralley to secure professional services for the Lane Avenue Planning Study; and
- We selected a 16-member Community Center Study Group to explore the feasibility of a multi-generational indoor recreation facility in Upper Arlington. This was in response to the overwhelming feedback from residents received throughout the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan process—most notably, in the statistically valid survey 81% of respondents were supportive of such a study.

I anticipate that the Community Center Study Group will begin its work in earnest by mid-to-late August, however many initial housekeeping steps must be taken in advance to ensure the group is well organized and provided with good information at the beginning of the study process.

To that end, I have asked the two members of the Study Group that I am nominating to serve as Co-Chairs—to be approved by City Council at the August 19, 2019 Conference Session—if they would be willing to take the lead on advance preparations. The nominees are Margie Pizzuti and Nick Lashutka, and both have agreed to move this portion of the process forward.

They will guide UA City staff in providing administrative support to the Study Group, including potential formation of subcommittees, meeting schedules, regular flow of information and additional background/resource materials, as needed. I am grateful to Margie and Nick for their willingness to give of their time and expertise in advance, and I am confident they will provide the appropriate leadership to set the stage for a detailed study process that will be open and transparent.



As we all know, a critical component of the charge to the Study Group is to determine if the perceived need for a community center in Upper Arlington is real. If the Study Group concludes this to be the case, it must then explore how building an Upper Arlington Community Center might be accomplished—from identifying possible locations to determining the size and facilities within it, as well as considering appropriate funding options and partnership opportunities. This process must—and I’m confident it will—involve extensive community participation and consensus building.

My sincere thanks to all who have been involved in moving this significant recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan forward, and to members of Council for your excellent recommendations on who is to participate in the Study Group, and for your support as they begin their work.

Thank you.

CC: **Community Center Study Group Members:** Diane Albrecht, Friedl Bohm, Kelly Boggs-Lape, Greg Comfort, Wendy Gomez, Merry Hamilton, Fawzi Hidmi, Nick Lashutka, Chuck Manofsky, Linda Mauger, Linda Moulakis, Brian Perera, Margie Pizzuti, Matthew Rule, Todd Walter, Bill Westbrook

**Administration:** Dan Ralley, Acting City Manager, Debbie McLaughlin, Parks & Recreation Director, Jeanine Hummer, City Attorney, Jeff Anderson, Parks Planning & Development Manager, Emma Speight, Community Affairs Director, Ashley Ellrod, City Clerk

