

Roger Steinbrock

From: Marilyn Hull [redacted] >
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 11:10 AM
To: Lisa Grossman
Cc: [redacted]; Derek Rogers; Roger Steinbrock
Subject: Re: Community Building

Lisa:

Thank you so much for your comments, which I'm sharing by way of a cc with the Lawrence Parks and Recreation director and advisory board staff liaison. Your comments are important to us, and will be made available to the entire Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

On Thu, Jun 13, 2019 at 10:10 AM Lisa Grossman <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:
Marilyn and Val,

Hello friends and neighbors!

I'd like to express my concern to the Parks & Rec Advisory board about the potential closing/limited access of the Community Building downtown that I read about in the LJW this week. I believe it is an extremely valuable asset for our downtown, esp. lower income, under-the-radar neighbors.

I guess I discovered this lovely building too late! I prefer to exercise outdoors but when the weather's inclement I head to the Community Building to use the cardio room. I love it! When I started using it several years ago in the winter and super hot summer days, I was so grateful that I had somewhere that I could walk/bike to downtown to exercise, with a really clean, safe building with high-quality exercise equipment. A bonus was that I could witness the building host an extremely diverse range of people with shelter, fitness opportunities, social activity, etc. I loved watching folks of all ages shooting hoops, exercising, young parents enjoying toddler time, fitness classes, older folks or people with learning disabilities with regular walking routines, and of course, people using the restrooms, showers, other facilities, who really need them. I have friends who have rented the gym for decades to play basketball, I've attended so many events there and have regularly played contra dances there. It is a COMMUNITY building in the truest sense and a sure hope we can find a way to keep it open - for everyone. Plus, I love the historic aesthetic of it!

Oh, and I've certainly appreciated that it's free to me as a tax-paying citizen of Lawrence. I've never been able to splurge on a gym membership and prefer being in a place like this anyway. But I'd certainly think it reasonable to pay an annual or hourly fee on a sliding scale perhaps, or something to help cover expenses. Just like I pay to use the bus, have a resident borrower card at KU, etc.

I've never been in the East Lawrence Rec Center or the Rock Chalk Park and don't want to have to get in a car to go to any rec building. I don't care how fancy the new rec center is, I will not drive out there to use it.

Anyway, thanks for hearing me and please let me know if there's anything else we can do to keep the Community Building!

Sincerely,
Lisa Grossman

Roger Steinbrock

From: Marilyn Hull <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2019 9:52 PM
To: Heather MacLaren
Cc: Derek Rogers; Roger Steinbrock
Subject: Re: Community Building

Hi Heather:

Thanks so much for your comments. They will be shared with all members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. We are having a special meeting to discuss budget cuts on June 20 at 5:30pm at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices in South Park (West side). The meeting is open to the public. Feel free to come if you want to listen to the discussion and make additional comments.

On Sun, Jun 16, 2019 at 7:17 PM Heather MacLaren <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Greetings-

It has come to my attention that there is discussion to sell and close down the Community Building on 11th Street. I am writing in hopes to change your mind about this move.

The Community Building has many reasons to stay open. It is a centrally located gym for the east side of Lawrence. Yes, there is the East Lawrence Rec Center, but that is on the far edge of town. The downtown Community Building acts as a community hub for all kinds of people, and the location is ideal. It's amazing to come together in the goal of good health.

It serves so many groups in our community. In addition to using the gym to work out, I have taken Parks and Rec classes for over a decade... because of it's location. I have taken dance classes, yoga, Pilates, tai chi... all classes that would not be the same in private studios or all the way across town. I have also spoken at Girl Scout troop meetings and shopped at holiday fairs and viewed quilt shows there. What I'm trying to say is that it serves many purposes to a variety of populations.

I also value the fact that it is a safe space for kids in the afternoon. I have seen many children there that utilize the space to gather, play, and be safe.

I really can't think of downtown without thinking about the Community Building. It truly ties many people together in a unique way that will be lost if sold/closed. It has taken me from poor health to excellent health over the past 20 years. I know it's not only me... I have seen the same people frequenting the location for years in the name of good health. To lose that would be a detriment to our community.

Do not close the Downtown Community Building. It helps the whole downtown/East Lawrence community stay healthy, safe, and unites the community together.

Thank you. Kindly, Heather MacLaren

Derek Rogers

From: Bri Hodge <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2019 4:51 PM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Community building

Dear Mr. Rogers

I've been going to the community building since I was a teenager and I now go there with my two young daughters. The community building fills essential needs in the downtown area. It is historically 'Lawrence' and always should be. Please do not close it down.

Sincerely,

Brianna Hodge
[REDACTED]

Parks and Recreation Dept

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 3:38 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Dept
Subject: Downtown community bldg

I recently learned that there is a plan to cut funding for the downtown community building. What a dreadful idea! We need this community center to serve those of us living east of Iowa street. Please do not go forward with this plan. Fund the downtown community building and, in fact, I'd prefer that you expand their funding and programs!

Iris Craver

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Derek Rogers

From: Jasmine hazelton [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2019 6:39 PM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Community building

Mr. Rogers,

I grew up in Lawrence, Kansas loving basketball like most of the youth in the town. I was so thankful that there were free recreation centers in Lawrence because I spent almost every day/evening and weekend at one of the rec centers in Lawrence.

I also stayed out of trouble by having a free public building to go to! Please don't close the community building! Not all of us are privileged enough or have wealthy parents to be able pay for pricey gym memberships. Please think about the at risk, non wealthy population of youth in Lawrence.

Sincerely Jasmine Hazelton

Sent from my iPhone

Derek Rogers

From: Heather MacLaren [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2019 9:38 PM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Community Building

Greetings-

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It serves so many groups in our community. In addition to using the gym to work out, I have taken Parks and Rec classes for over a decade... because of it's location. I have taken dance classes, yoga, Pilates, tai chi... all classes that would not be the same in private studios or all the way across town. I have also spoken at Girl Scout troop meetings and shopped at holiday fairs and viewed quilt shows there. What I'm trying to say is that is serves many purposes to a variety of populations.

I also value the fact that it is a safe space for kids in the afternoon. I have seen many children there that utilize the space to gather, play, and be safe.

I really can't think of downtown without thinking about the Community Building. It truly ties many people together in a unique way that will be lost if sold/closed. It has taken me from poor health to excellent health over the past 20 years. I know it's not only me... I have seen the same people frequenting the location for years in the name of good health. To lose that would be a detriment to our community.

Do not close the Downtown Community Building. It helps the whole downtown/East Lawrence community stay healthy, safe, and unites the community together.

Thank you. Kindly, Heather MacLaren

Derek Rogers

From: Mary Winslow [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 10:48 AM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Community Building

I was shocked to hear that Parks and Rec. Advisory Board is considering closing the Community Building. It serves so many people that the other centers do not. I strongly oppose this decision.

Mary Winslow

Derek Rogers

From: teresa wilke [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 12:36 PM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: community building

I am a citizen of Lawrence. I have used the community building for recreation nearly every day for 25 years. I have seen hundreds of citizens use the building - of all ages, races, and gender. Please do not think of selling or closing the community building. It is everything to our town. Respectfully, Teresa Wilke

Derek Rogers

From: m h [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 1:47 PM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Possible closing of our community building

Mr. Rogers,

I am writing to express my concern that the rumor that the Community Building might be sold or closed might have some validity. Surely not. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend Thursday's meeting, but I want you to know that I am strongly opposed to this happening. I feel it's discriminatory not to have the building continue to be a COMMUNITY facility for all and especially for east and south Lawrence populations.

I have attended classes at the center for almost 15 years. I could not drive to the Sports Pavilion north of town, so besides the principle of the matter, it's personal to me.

Please consider my concerns when making your decision.

Thank you.

MaryAnn Henry
[REDACTED]

Derek Rogers

From: Sam Shiff [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 5:25 PM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Lawrence Community Building

Hello Director Derek Rogers,

I have seen that Lawrence Parks and Rec are considering shutting down the Lawrence community building. I am very sad to hear this as the rec center is home to many of our Lawrence neighbors for its location, accessibility, and community values.

I am emailing you today that, most importantly, I want to voice my opinion to hopefully keep the community center alive. Since there are talks for shutting down the center I assume there are reasons and plans to deal with the moving forward and I would like to know what does the advisory board have planned? Such as short and long term goals for the board to use this decision to strengthen the community with the direction it takes. Of course, if there is reason in funding and future planning that logistically makes sense to do so; that is one thing. Without a goal in mind that surpasses the strong need of the Lawrence community building, I hope you find that we stand by the value it brings to our town.

Thank you,
Sam Shiff

Derek Rogers

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 7:13 PM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Community Building

Please do not close the 11th Street Community Building. I enjoy taking classes through Parks and Rec at the building, and many of the older people in my class do not drive. They live in the downtown area and walk to the Community Building. They would not be able to drive to Rock Chalk or to Holcom Park. When I am in the Community Building, I always see a wide variety of people using the facilities. This building is used by all ages, very young, to very old. Please leave this building open for the downtown community to use.

Thank you.
Vicki Beals
Lawrence, Ks

Derek Rogers

From: Jon Heeb [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 10:08 PM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Comm bldg

Hey Derek,

Just heard about this idea of closing down the community building. Makes me sad. It's been a mainstay of the community for as long as I can remember and it continues to seem to be pretty busy. I use it at least twice a week, every week.

I presume it's a numbers issue, usage and \$, and nothing is going to change the facts.

Anyway, just reminding you that I for one am a regular and will miss it greatly.

Thanks for your commitment to Lawrence and all your hard work. Hope you're well!

Jon

Derek Rogers

From: Noah Hogan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 8:32 AM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Community Building Equipment

Derek,

I saw yesterday that the Parks and Rec Advisory Board is looking to close the Community Building. Will the equipment in the gym be up for sale when this happens? My friends and I work out in the Community Building almost every day and would love to purchase some of the equipment (specifically, the incline bench, a barbell, and a set of plates) for use in a home gym and for the sentimental value this stuff has for us. We've made a lot of good memories with those weights!

Thanks for your help,

Noah Hogan

Derek Rogers

From: Stephanie Harvey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 9:51 AM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: The Community building

I am a concerned citizen of Lawrence. I'm wondering why you would consider selling or closing the Community Building. It's a historical part of Lawrence history and needs to be cared for properly.

I am a member of the fitness class that meets there M, W, F. Many of us live closer to this facility than the Rock Chalk Park, and need this place to have our class. Please consider not selling or closing the building.

Sincerely, Stephanie Harvey

Derek Rogers

From: Sheridan James [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 11:05 AM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Lawrence Parks and Recs community building

Hello Derrick Rogers, this is Sheridan Sogge a concerned community member and resident of Lawrence for over 7 years.

I am reaching out on behalf of the new proposition to sell the Lawrence Parks, and Recs community building. Please take careful consideration in this decision, as the Parks and Recs building is a very valuable resource to our community. I live 1 block away from the building, and it contributes to the health and well being of our community in countless ways.

I'm sure you are under pressure with the new budget cuts to sell this building, but please consider looking at alternative options. Losing the rec center as a resource would be devastating for our community, and would send a message to Lawrence and the surrounding communities that the city as a whole doesn't prioritize the health and well being of marginalized citizens that use this building daily. Also please take into account all the volunteers who have donated so much of their own personal time to keep the rec center active.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,
Sheridan Sogge.

Derek Rogers

From: Judy Green <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 12:16 PM
To: Derek Rogers
Subject: Community Bldg

Hello. I understand that the board is considering selling or closing the Community Bldg. I have been a resident of Lawrence since 1968 and have taken classes on average of 3-5 days per week in the building since 1983. I am strongly opposed to closing/selling the building. It is a vital part of our downtown and a central location for those of us that don't want to travel to far west Lawrence to Rock Chalk Park. If a "usage fee" for the building, in addition to what we are already paying for classes is necessary, I would not be opposed. It is not fair to punish the people who use the Community Bldg because RCP isn't making enough money. Thanks for your consideration. Judy Green

Derek Rogers

From: Patricia Hooge [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 3:50 PM
To: Derek Rogers
Cc: DAVID
Subject: Community Building

Greetings Mr D. Rogers,

As a Lawrence resident and taxpayer I would like to implore you not to close or sell the Community Building. It fills a void left by the other city gyms. It is centrally located; easily accessible by all forms of transportation; adjacent to one of our main and most utilized parks and it offers classes and opportunities not offered elsewhere.

Although Rock Chalk Park is much larger, it is quite a distance for many and is also run for profit and squeezes out the local resident since there are so many outside activities that take place there. Parking is also an issue for all the senior citizens of this community, especially when many childrens' activities are conducted during the same timeframe. It is a problem for seniors when little ones are running about and can collide with you. The sound volume is also difficult to deal with there.

Thank you for your time.

Most Sincerely,

P. Hooge

Roger Steinbrock

From: Nathan Littlejohn <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 8:48 AM
To: Derek Rogers; Roger Steinbrock; Marilyn Hull
Subject: Fwd: How to share comments on Community Building / Parks & Recs in Downtown?

FYI....

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sorcha Hyland <[REDACTED]>
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 3:23 AM
Subject: How to share comments on Community Building / Parks & Recs in Downtown?
To: <nrlittlej3@gmail.com>

Hello,

I am a Lawrence tax-payer and property owner. I am also a former employee of LP&R as a yoga instructor for LMH off-site there. I am horrified at the fact that funds have been managed in such a way that the Community Building downtown is potentially up for sale and/or closure. This IS a COMMUNITY building, and as a person who has felt very extorted by LP&R over the fees I was paid for my own work (while this public service organization made a profit from the 20 nurses who paid to attend my class OFF-SITE at LMH) -- I now want to see transparency and full disclosure of fees and financial management of Lawrence Parks & Recs. Closure of a Community Building like this - or the threat to - smacks of segregation and gentrification of the downtown. It smacks of all that will destroy what is Lawrence as a community - pushing the poor out, and turning public spaces into private ones. How do we get on the agenda or contribute and monitor this issue. I currently live out of the country, but again I continue to pay property tax and share custody of a child who is also a Lawrence resident and contributing to our community.

Please advise.
Sorcha Hyland

SORCHA HYLAND

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Cell # from USA: [REDACTED]

URL: www.sorchahyland.com

Doctoral Student (On Leave)
Department of Special Education
University of Kansas (KU)