

LONG TERM CAPITAL NEEDS FOR PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CENTER

Recommendation from Friends of Prescott, Inc.

3-Year Strategic Plan: During the first half of 2022, Friends of Prescott (FOP) hired a consultant to work with its Board of Directors and staff and create a 3-Year Strategic Plan. The plan was completed in August 2022 and identified four strategic goals to ensure sustainability: 1.) **Solidify Programs & Services**, 2.) **Strengthen Organizational Capacity**, 3.) **Increase Sustainability** and 4.) **Care for the Facility**. During the six-month process of creating the strategic plan a significant amount of research was conducted, including interviews and surveys with FOP's tenants and numerous members of the community. This research led FOP to make a decision to add after school children's programming to its offerings in 2023.

After School Program: Last Fall, FOP hired Groton resident Holly Cassa as Family and Children's Program Coordinator. Previously, Holly oversaw after school children's programming for the Recreation Department in Concord MA and Nashoba Brooks School. FOP is in the final stages of being licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and anticipates launching after school programming shortly. The success of this new program will lead to the long-term sustainability of Prescott Community Center.

The transition to children's after school programming is in response to strong community demand discovered during the strategic planning process and is in full alignment with FOP's mission to promote and support community education, arts and recreational programming for all ages. The EEC licensing process has led to a substantial effort by FOP over the past months to renovate spaces to be utilized by children. The Town has agreed to refurbish the playground behind the building.

Facility: One of FOP's four strategic goals is **Care for the Facility**. Over the past several years FOP has budgeted \$15,000/yr. for general maintenance. This does not include hundreds of hours of volunteer time. This year, the budget was increased to \$20,000. Significant improvements have been made to the property over the past several years, including the implementation of sprinkler and fire alarm systems. FOP, utilizing both outside contractors and volunteers, refurbished the front of the building and added benches, trees, shrubs and flowers to create Prescott Park during 2022. The electrical capacity in the building is scheduled to be increased with the installation of an elevator system during 2023. FOP has recently completed renovation of the Community Room and is in the process of refurbishing all remaining common areas in the basement. FOP plans to refurbish the common areas on the second floor later this year.

Recommendation: The building is in solid condition except for the old steam furnace with a single zone for the entire building. There is also a need for air conditioning for both tenants and summer programming. FOP recommends that a study be conducted to determine the most efficient and cost effective manner to upgrade the HVAC system. A modern HVAC system will reduce the building's energy use and carbon emissions.