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Subject: Chilmark Community Center/ lighting issues
Date: Monday, August 29, 2022 10:43:31 PM

Dear Town of Chilmark:

This was a very busy summer for us at the Chilmark Community Center. With 200+ campers each week, a busy adult fitness program, and the Author Series, on any given day we might use the Center's big room for a morning staff meeting, a morning fitness class with 15-20 people, a visiting artist performance providing an interactive experience for a group of campers, a lunch for counselors, a poetry writing program for afternoon campers, and finally an evening author talk with 275+ guests.

While the facilities of the Center are well used, they are in need of upgrade. In particular, the lighting in the main hall urgently needs to be modernized. When she performed at the Center on July 22, Amy Schumer quipped, "I have never performed in a space where the audience is brighter than I am." The technology is decades old and there are now much better lighting options that would allow for different lighting for the multiple uses for which the hall is used throughout the day. The current three fluorescent light zones in the main hall would benefit from being changed to LED lighting that can be dimmed by sections of the room.

Indeed, fluorescent lighting is also in the entry hall, the office (near the restrooms), the small room near the front door, and the kitchen. The lighting in all of these areas should be upgraded to be more comfortable for those using and working in the space.

The lighting on the stage also needs attention. There are four bright, hot spotlights on a track. Often only two of the lights are working. Of course we could replace the bulbs, but this only makes it hotter and adds to the glare. Performers on stage are partially bathed in hot light and partially in dark shadow. They all come off stage dripping sweat. The sconces on the stage are peculiar and don't add anything except making it hard for the audience to look at the stage.

We respectfully request that you place priority on upgrading the lighting at the Center this winter. It is long overdue. We would be happy to help in any way we can and would appreciate the opportunity to look at your plans when you develop them.

with thanks,

Suellen Lazarus
CTAC