

[NOTE: These minutes are made available to the public prior to Senior Citizen Advisory Committee acceptance.]

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - Thursday, March 16, 2006

Vice Chair Jane Helen Ross opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Members present were Jane Helen Ross, Grace Piencikowski, Gerry Seklecki, Donna Mattison, Christine Taylor, Bertha Keenan, Maribeth Dwane and Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

1. Public Comments.

No public comments.

2. [Minutes - February 16, 2006.](#)

Kathy Bagley distributed a revised copy of the minutes. She explained that a draft of the minutes was sent out to committee members inadvertently. Members reviewed the revised minutes. Donna Mattison moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Christine Taylor and voted unanimously.

3. Old Business.

a. Election of Chairperson.

No member of the committee is interested in serving as chairperson at this time.

4. Reports.

a. AARP.

Gerry Seklecki reported that their Monday meeting went well and coming up soon is the election of officers.

b. Elderly Services Coordinator.

Christine Taylor reported that her department is sponsoring the "Glass Slipper" project. This project is for students who cannot afford prom gowns. The project is sponsored by the Youth Advisory Board and they are looking for people to donate new or gently used formal clothes. These clothes will be made available to high school students. The date for this program is April 25 through the April 27. Christine also reported that some states across the nation are getting scams on the Medicare Prescription program. She encouraged all seniors to not give out any information over the phone that has to do with their health or medical benefits. She also reported that a volunteer group will be providing free home repair service the week of July 31 through August 5. Anyone interested needs to contact her office. She also reported that the Wethersfield Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities is working on a handbook for residents in town with disabilities. This committee is also looking to set up a forum on transportation during the day for input on the Dial-a-Ride service.

c. Wethersfield Senior Club.

Grace Piencikowski reported that they had their senior luncheon of corned beef and cabbage and it was very successful.

d. Senior Center.

Donna Mattison reported that the April newsletter will be out soon. She will also be sponsoring a "Cognitive Memory" program on April 13 in the morning and afternoon and also a music and

movement program in June. She is also looking into setting up a "game" afternoon where participants can play Scrabble, cards or board games.

- e. Kathy Bagley presented some information given to her by Nancy Stilwell who was unable to attend the meeting. She asked that this information on transportation for senior citizens be reported to the committee. Attached to the minutes is Nancy Stilwell's report on transportation.

5. New Business.

- a. Professor Ben Tyson from Central Connecticut State University gave the committee a presentation on the Social and Youth Services study. He provided a handout to committee members, which is attached to the minutes. He explained that the objective of the study was to assess duplication in gaps and services for youths, senior citizens and for people with disabilities offered by the Wethersfield Department of Social and Youth Services. He explained that certain programs rated by the senior citizens were the most frequently used and the most important to them. These five services were the lunch program, food pantry, energy assistance, recreation activities for older adults and Dial-a-Ride. He explained to committee members that this study surveyed approximately 212 seniors to get their opinions on a variety of questions. Committee members asked questions regarding this study. They felt the senior citizens who responded to the survey provided a great deal of information on the programs and services. They asked Professor Tyson what was the most frequently used program and the most important program from the senior citizen's perspective. He reported that the most frequently used program was the lunch program and recreation activities and some of the most important programs were the Meals on Wheels and the Dial-a-Ride program for senior citizens. His summary report is attached to the minutes. Jane Helen Ross, Vice Chair, thanked Professor Tyson for attending their meeting and presenting the results of the study.

6. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.