

SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, October 17, 2013

Present: Kathi Liberman, Christine Taylor, Lisa Galipo, Joe Mehan, Claire Mehan, Chris Skowronek, Mary Thibeault, Adele Antoniou, Lee Sekas

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm and those present introduced themselves to guests Debbie Giantonio and Anne Orsene from the Central CT Regional Tourism District. Debbie and Anne made a brief presentation about the work of the Tourism Department and what resources they had to offer if the SCAC decided to use tourism as the topic for our annual spring event. Debbie and Anne reported they do not have a set program, but can customize the information they generally present for particular audiences. They reported they have assisted with “mini trade shows” at other senior centers where the Center invites local businesses and venues to set up tables to provide information. The Tourism District could provide the contacts for such an event. They also offered to show the State’s promotional video, distribute the State’s vacation guide and offer “suggested itineraries” to participants. They could also provide the contacts for the other Regional Districts.

After the guests left the meeting, the committee members discussed the topic for the spring event. All agreed this would be a fun and “fresh” topic. The group made several suggestions to make the event more interesting by having raffles throughout the event, having the representatives from each venue bring something to raffle, inviting the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce, and inviting Scott Haney or another TV personality to participate. A motion was made by Joe Mehan to make Tourism the topic of this year’s SCAC event. Chris Taylor seconded the motion. The group agreed to hold a planning meeting on Thursday, November 7 at 11am. The planning committee will include Kathi, Lisa, Chris Taylor, Adele, Chris Skowronek, and Joe and Claire Mehan. Lisa agreed to find a room for the meeting. Kathi will re-contact the Tourism representatives after the planning meeting to inform them of our decision and needs.

Minutes: The group reported they had read the minutes prior to the meeting. No changes or corrections were needed. A motion was made by Claire Mehan to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Joe Mehan and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Old Business:

Kathi Liberman noted that Councilor Roberts was absent because she was involved with Wethersfield’s visitors from Japan. Councilor Roberts is working to get approval from the Town Council for Agnes Bolasevich and Barbara Higbee’s positions on the SCAC.

Financial Update: Lisa reported that the current balance in our account is \$1699.00. This balance includes \$221.82 which the Parks and Rec Dept has deposited in our account as reimbursement for the Car Fit Event held during the last fiscal year. Kathy Bagley informed Lisa that the Parks and Rec Dept decided to help the Committee out by paying for this expense.

New Business:

Committee Reports:

Wethersfield Housing Authority: Kathi Liberman reported

- Renovations are complete at 60 Lancaster Road.
- Renovations remain in progress at the low-income family housing units.
- Kathi is partnering with Social & Youth Services regarding energy assistance.
- The housing authority is preparing for holiday programs.

Clergy: Chris Skowronek reported

- The four-church service held on 9/22 at Cove Park was a great success. A collection raised over \$8,000 which was given to the Wethersfield Department of Social & Youth Services to assist town residents in need.
- The town's churches are currently considering how they might work together more to meet the social service needs of town residents and its seniors.

Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent: Chris Taylor reported

- She has completed the Energy Assistance outreach schedule and is publicizing the dates she will be going to housing sites to take applications
- The Social & Youth Services office is currently booking appointments for the beginning of January to process energy assistance applications.
- The Energy Blitz will take place on 10/23 and involve six CRT workers who will service close to 80 residents that day alone.
- Chris passed out a flyer publicizing upcoming public forums regarding transportation.
- She reminded the group about the Home Front program which offers free home repairs to seniors in need. Interested parties should call her for more information.
- Chris also has applications for assistance from the Salvation Army.
- She reminded the group that Medicare Open Enrollment began 10/15.
- She reported that some residents have come to Town Hall to inquire about their SNAP benefits which are decreasing slightly in November.
- She reported her Department is working to sign residents up for upcoming holiday programs.

People with Disabilities: Chris Taylor reported

- Natalie Morrison is fundraising for Special Olympics.
- A Thanksgiving Event is scheduled for 11/19 from 5:30-7:30pm.
- A holiday party is planned for 12/17 from 6-9pm.
- A pancake breakfast is planned for 12/7 from 8am-12N.
- The Governor's mansion will have an open house on 12/6.
- Residents have complained that there is no light at the corner of Maple and Hang Dog Lane and crossing the street there is difficult.

Senior Center: Lisa Galipo reported

- Attendance at SC programs continues to be very good.

- Lisa is disseminating the monthly newsletter to local doctors' offices and is now mailing them to local churches.
- She mailed the Community Café menu to housing complexes last month and will continue to do so on a monthly basis.
- She read a thank-you email received by the Computer Learning Center from a recent student.
- She handed out materials from a non-profit organization called GreenShare whose mission it is to provide computer technology to low income individuals and seniors.

Senior Club: Joe Mehan reported

- The setback group is planning a collection for the troops in November.
- The setback group is having a Halloween party next Friday 10/25.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:10pm by Joe Mehan and seconded by Claire Mehan.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Galipo