

## SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2013

**Present:** Kathi Liberman, Barbara Higbee, Agnes Bolasevich, Councilor Gerri Roberts, Christine Taylor, Lisa Galipo, Joe Mehan, Claire Mehan, Chris Skowronek, Kathy Bagley, Lee Sekas

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.

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

### **Old Business:**

Kathi Liberman reported on the Volunteer Recognition Event held 6/11/13. She noted the event went very well. Joe Mehan asked why the senior recognition event was no longer held in conjunction with the volunteer event for others including young people as it was in the past. The group noted that the seniors had expressed an interest in an event during the day as they don't like to drive at night. Joe thought it was nice to have the events combined. The group will discuss this with Nancy Stillwell.

The group discussed Committee membership. We will need to check the membership list for the number of members and their affiliations. Barbara Higbee is willing to fill one of the at-large positions. It appears two additional openings are available in order to fill the 12 slots.

Financial Update: Lisa reported that the current balance in our account is \$1578.18. This balance includes payments for two half-page ads in the Rare Reminder for August and September and payment of \$221.82 for the Car Fit Event held during the last fiscal year. She noted that the transfer of funds out of the Committee account to reimburse Parks & Rec for the janitorial costs was not made until after the new fiscal year began. The Finance Dept. would not retroactively transfer these funds. The group discussed how it would make up for this loss. It was decided that Lisa would run 12 half-page ads in the Rare Reminder this year for a total cost of \$1200 instead of the usual expenditure for 10 half-page and 2 full-page ads. Kathy Bagley noted we could revisit our budget in the future and if a full-page ad was affordable at some point, it could be added back to the budget. Joe Mehan made a motion to allocate funds for 10 half-page ads in the Rare Reminder this fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Chris Skowronek and passed.

### **New Business:**

### **Committee Reports:**

Council Liaison: Councilor Gerri Roberts reported

- The Town has broken ground for the High School renovations. An official groundbreaking ceremony will take place Monday, 9/23 at 9am. Neighbors in the area have been informed of changes in traffic flow required for the next 2-3 years.
- Elections will take place this year on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Wethersfield Housing Authority: Kathi Liberman reported

- Renovations are in progress at the family housing units on Wolcott Hill Road.
- Kathi is partnering with Social & Youth Services regarding energy assistance.
- The number of residents using Food Share is up.

Clergy: Chris Skowronek reported

- There will be a Four-Church Service held this Sunday, 9/22 at Colt Park. A collection will be taken for a particular Town fund.

Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent: Chris Taylor reported

- Chris distributed a booklet entitled “Legislative Commission on Aging: 2013 Inside the Dome Report” which included recent legislation impacting seniors and the disabled. She noted that the Rent Rebate program is being sunset.
- The Town’s CRT Energy Blitz will take place on 10/23 from 9am-2:30pm. Six CRT workers will process applications for applicants who use oil. She reviewed the energy assistance guidelines and reported that applicants should call Social & Youth Services for appointments.
- Chris handed out dates for the Flu Shot Clinics being held by the Central CT Health District.
- Chris made the group aware of several scams that are targeting seniors.
- There is an upcoming free seminar and breakfast sponsored by NCAAA on 9/24 regarding help for persons losing their sight and hearing.

People with Disabilities: Chris Taylor reported

- At the WACPD meeting clients expressed dissatisfaction with transportation services available to them through Curtain Transport which is not available on weekends. Many expressed a desire for Sunday rides to church. A two-tier transportation service, one tier with higher costs, was suggested that would include weekend service. Lee Sekas also noted that transportation is an obstacle to attending many evening Adult Ed classes and suggested having some classes appropriate for seniors at the Senior Center during the day. Lisa Galipo said she plans to contact some Adult Ed teachers to see if this may be possible.
- Holiday programs are being planned for the group.
- Chris handed out a flyer for an Alzheimer’s benefit called “The Dating Game” on 10/24 at the Playhouse on Park.
- Medicare Open Enrollment begins on 10/15.
- Lee Sekas suggested that the Community Café service be listed in each monthly Senior Center newsletter and a sample of the menu be included. He also asked that the monthly menu be sent to each housing complex for posting. Lisa Galipo said she will be sure this happens.

Senior Center: Lisa Galipo reported

- The Senior Center has just reached the 500-member mark.
- Attendance at all programs has been very good in large part due to the advertisement of programs in the recent Parks & Rec brochure.
- Lisa is disseminating the monthly newsletter to local doctor's offices and pharmacies and will mail them to local churches.
- Registration for the upcoming Tai Chi classes appears to show we are bringing in a younger group of seniors.
- Lisa received a letter from Hartford Hospital staff reporting that their grant-funding has run out for any future Car Fit and Matter of Balance programs.

Senior Club: Agnes Bolasevich & Joe Mehan reported

- Agnes is the newly-elected president of the Senior Club and is actively involved in bingo.
- The bingo group recently took steps to accommodate a hearing impaired individual. A regular bingo player has volunteered to assist this woman if she attends bingo in the future. She noted the group also accommodates those with vision problems by using large cards.
- The Senior Club is actively planning its Christmas party and has a Craft Fair scheduled for 10/16.
- Joe Mehan noted that Blood Sugar testing is now taking place monthly before Setback on Fridays and many are taking advantage of this opportunity.
- The Club recently held an Indoor Beach Party of which there will be a picture in this month's Wethersfield Post.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4pm by Claire Mehan and seconded by Barbara Higbee.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Galipo