

SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2014

Present: Kathi Liberman, Nancy Stilwell, Kathy Bagley, Christine Taylor, Lisa Galipo, Tony Martino, Barbara Higbee, Agnes Bolasevich, Carol Tedone, Chris Skowronek

The meeting was called to order at 3:07pm.

Kathi Liberman asked for a motion to approve the January minutes. Lisa noted that a correction to the minutes is required. The correct contact person for the Lions Club is Barbara Blejewski. A motion was made by Barbara Higbee and seconded by Chris Taylor to accept the minutes with this correction. The minutes were accepted with correction.

Old Business:

Kathi Liberman noted that we are still in need of members to fill positions on this Committee. She requested that current members recruit potential new members and invite them to upcoming meetings.

Lisa Galipo reported the SCAC account has a balance of \$1198.

New Business:

Kathi Liberman updated the committee regarding the work of the planning committee for the spring SCAC event. Al Strong from the State Office of Tourism will speak at the event as will Jason Hawkins from Channel 30. Other groups that have accepted our invitation to attend the event include the Dept of Agriculture, AAA, Friendship Tours, the Chamber of Commerce, the Nature Center, Main St Creamery & Café, Fascia's Chocolates of Waterbury, Olde Burnside Brewing Co of East Hartford, Woody's Hot Dogs of Hartford, the New Britain Museum of American Art and Dinosaur State Park. Lisa reported that the Old Burnside Brewing Co mentioned bringing beer to the event. Kathy Bagley noted that a liquor license would be required and liability issues would need to be addressed. She will check on the details of this. Kathi noted that the planning subcommittee would be meeting directly after the SCAC meeting today.

Committee Reports:

Council Liaison:

Tony Martino reported that the Town Council acted on two issues regarding seniors at the last meeting. The Council approved a new one-year contract with Curtin Transportation for Dial-a-ride services with an additional 2 years renewable if the service provided during the first year is satisfactory. The Council also approved the expansion grant for Friday service. Nancy Stilwell reported that there is a 3% increase in costs under this new contract. The cost for standard service is \$203,250. Cost for the expansion grant is the same as last year.

Chris Skowronek reported that his Church received many inquiries regarding Sunday dial-a-ride service following a recent mailer. Nancy explained that the Town offered Sunday service in the past but the cost was prohibitive and few residents utilized the service. Nancy suggested contacting Curtin Transportation to see if the Church could arrange services outside of the dial-a-ride contract. Kathy Liberman also offered to get a contact person for Juniper House who has provided the Housing Authority with affordable transportation in the past.

Wethersfield Housing Authority:

Kathi Liberman reported that the Housing Authority has been working diligently to keep up with snow plowing needs this winter.

Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent: Chris Taylor reported

- The Dept of Social & Youth Services continues to process applications for energy assistance. They have taken 405 applications so far. The program ends May 1.
- The Dept trained 13 new volunteers for the Friendly Shopper/visitor program. More volunteers are needed.
- She is in the process of developing an outreach schedule to the Town's housing sites for the Rent Rebate program which operates 4/1-10/1/14.
- There are new guidelines for the Medicare Savings Program as of 3/1.
- Gov. Malloy recently issued a press release regarding those impacted by changes to United Health Care's Medicare Advantage Plan. The governor assured residents whose doctors were dropped from the plan, that they could keep their doctors by switching plans before 2/14 by calling the CHOICES hotline.
- The CT Master's Games will be held May 17 & 18 in New Britain for those aged 30-90.
- Nancy Stilwell is retiring. Her last day is 3/14. The Committee wished Nancy the best.

People with Disabilities: Chris Taylor reported

- Natalie Morrison's programs are going well. Residents are urged to sign up now for the track and field events to be held in March.
- There will be a meeting regarding transportation services at First Church Village at 7pm on 3/19.
- Residents discussed problems accessing DSS services.
- The group discussed the availability of bathroom/changing areas at Town pools. Kathy Bagley commented on this issue. She noted that currently each pool locker room has a changing area however the request was made for a separate changing area that persons of either gender could enter. Kathy said the Town is currently researching if a need exists for separate changing areas. If a need does exist, the Town will explore how to make this happen. She noted that there will be a separate changing area at the new High School locker area.

Wethersfield Senior Club

- Agnes reported that the Club is planning its St. Patrick's Day event for 3/12. The Club subsidizes each attendee by \$7. Agnes reports that the corn beef & cabbage at this annual event is delicious.

Senior Center: Lisa Galipo reported

- Lisa updated the group on upcoming Senior Center programs in March including the AARP Smart Driver course, a “life planning” workshop, the Diabetes Academy, and a Lunch & Learn.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:40pm by Chris Skowronek and seconded by Chris Taylor. The next meeting will be on 3/20/14.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Galipo