

TRUMBULL SENIOR CITIZEN COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 27, 2012

Commission members in attendance: Linda Ciocci, Chairperson; Joan Mehlhorn, Vice Chairperson; Dee Chiota; Connie Cleary; Amy DeZenzo; Fran Hanna; Gary Raytar; and Dorothy Merritt, Alternate.

Commission members not present: Helen Weinstein, Secretary.

Public Attendance: Carlos Cabrera; Jean Ferreira, Senior Center Director; Nick Ruospo; Sylvia Jones; and Gloria Monaco.

Meeting called to order: 10:05AM

Public Session: Nick Ruospo addressed the Commission representing the men's card group which has received permission from Town Hall to conduct a Texas Hold 'em Tournament in the Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. Mr. Ruospo requested approval for purchase by the Commission of a larger table to enable playing with less crowding, since as many as eighteen persons sit at one table during the final round. L. Ciocci questioned the legal occupancy limitations of the space as designated by the Fire Marshall. A representative from the Fire Marshall's office subsequently came to the Center to inspect the space, determining that it could legally accommodate up to 45 persons. J. Ferreira noted that Town Hall's letter stipulated a maximum of eight players per table. Therefore, the group would need additional approval for the larger number of participants. J. Mehlhorn questioned the cost for the larger table. J. Ferreira estimated that \$350 would purchase a quality table six feet in length capable of folding for storage and equipped with castors to facilitate being used throughout the Center. F. Hanna noted that a six foot table would not provide sufficient space for eighteen players. L. Ciocci expressed concern with the larger numbers participating in this tournament given the high stakes and given past complaints from other Senior Center members about this group. N. Ruospo stated that all Texas Hold 'em participants currently sign a contract insuring compliance with Center regulations regarding conduct. D. Chiota questioned the legality of operating such a tournament. J. Ferreira explained that she previously was told by the police that, so long as the Center and/or the Commission (the "House") did not receive proceeds from the tournament, this activity is legal. J. Mehlhorn suggested that this group first approach Town Hall for approval for the expanded number of players; if approved, the Commission can then consider purchasing the larger table. The Commissioners took a tour of the Card Room to enable them to make an informed recommendation as to whether or not the additional players should be accommodated. J. Mehlhorn stated that the larger table size would promote larger numbers of participants and suggested that a limit should be enforced. L. Ciocci expressed concern that this activity was not appropriate to the Center and urged the Commission to deny the request.

Sylvia Jones then addressed the Commission and asked for clarification on the procedures for becoming a Senior Citizen Commissioner. A. DeZenzo explained that interested persons should forward their resume to their party's Town Committee or to the First Selectman's office for consideration, noting that active Commissioners serve for two years. A. DeZenzo further stated that term renewals for active Commissioners are determined by the First Selectman and that persons who sent in resumes would not be contacted until and unless an opening existed, at which point candidates

are called in for an interview. A. DeZenzo emphasized that the First Selectman determines final approval for filling all Commission vacancies.

Approval of Minutes:

Amended the minutes of November 18, 2011 as follows:

Page 3. Under **Old Business**, paragraph 2, line 2, change the reference to the wording on the plaque from “Established June 2010” to “*Established 2010*”.

MOTION made by J. Mehlhorn to accept the minutes of November 18, 2011 as corrected, seconded by G. Raytar.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Chairman’s Report: L. Ciocci announced that the meeting would continue as an Executive Session. Accordingly, all non-commissioners were excused for approximately 35 minutes of closed discussion. The public session reconvened at 11:45am.

Secretary’s Report: None.

Treasurer’s Report: None.

Center Director’s Report: J. Ferreira introduced Mr. Carlos Cabrera, the volunteer who provides catering services for the Senior Center Snack Bar Monday through Thursday. Mr. Cabrera has accommodated the nutrition needs following the recent elimination of CW Resources’ nutrition program on Thursdays. J. Ferreira emphasized that this change has increased greatly the volume and scope of Mr. Cabrera’s commitment; therefore, she would like the Commission to provide a monetary compensation to Mr. Cabrera for this service should he elect to continue providing it.

A copy of the Director’s Report for January 2012, together with a copy of the proposed budget for 2012, was circulated (copies filed together with Minutes at Town Hall). F. Hanna asked if this budget had been reviewed by the Board of Finance. J. Ferreira explained that, to comply with a predetermined appointment date, the budget was presented to the First Selectman and was presented as proposed and pending review by the Commission. F. Hanna pointed out that the December Senior Citizen Commission meeting should not have been cancelled, as the budget should have been reviewed prior to the Director’s meeting. L. Ciocci explained that several commissioners were unable to attend in December, resulting in an inability to reach a quorum for that meeting. F. Hanna countered that a quorum is not required for discussion. To continue, J. Ferreira noted that she has been instructed to comply with a “no growth” request. The proposed 2012 budget indicates an increase in programming, which typically is funded through the proceeds from the monthly newsletter advertisements; therefore, unless newsletter sponsorship is expanded or the Commission agrees to provide funding to cover this growth, she will have to eliminate current programs to bring the proposed budget in compliance with the “no growth” request. F. Hanna asked if art programs had been added. After review, the commission identified four art classes currently being offered, two each by two different instructors. G. Raytar noted that the increased programming costs resulted in part from the increased salary of a replacement dance instructor. D. Chiota asked if there was a minimum participant requirement. J. Ferreira stated that the target number for attendance is twelve. A. DeZenzo noted that the proposed budget is incomplete and, therefore, cannot be voted upon.

D. Chiota stated that she needed to leave today’s session at noon. F. Hanna and A. DeZenzo also announced their need to leave at noon. Because of this time constraint, L. Ciocci suggested that the

Commission should schedule a follow-up meeting to enable proper review of the pending 2012 Budget.

MOTION made by J. Mehlhorn to reconvene for a Special Session of the Senior Citizen Commission to review the proposed 2012 Budget on Friday, February 3rd at 10:00am, seconded by C. Cleary.
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

The next meeting, a special session of the Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission, is scheduled for Friday, February 3, 2012, at 10:00AM.

MOTION was made by J. Mehlhorn to adjourn the meeting, seconded by G. Raytar.
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned: 12:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Donahue, Clerk