

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting – September 26, 2014

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission
September 26, 2014
10:00 am
Long Hill Conference Room

The Senior Citizen Commission of the Town of Trumbull held a scheduled meeting on September 26, 2014 in the Long Hill Conference Room in the Trumbull Town Hall.

Members Present: Chairperson, Rachel Yahwak; Vice Chairperson, Roberta Bellows; Ron Foligno, Dee Chiota, Dorothy Merritt and alternates Maureen Gordon and Gail D’Elia.

Members Absent: Joan Mehlhorn, Amy DeZenzo, Rita Grossi and Senior Center Director, Jean Ferreira

This is a brief summary of the meeting.

A quorum being present, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Yahwak welcomed the two new alternates to the commission and is looking forward to their participation and input.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Past Minutes

Mrs. Bellows noted that her name was misspelled on the first page. Motion was made by Mrs. Chiota, seconded by Ms. Merritt, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion was approved unanimously.

Secretary’s Report

Mrs. Chiota noted that she will be sending a card to Sharon and Bob Miller as well as Joan Mehlhorn.

Chairperson’s Report

Mrs. Yahwak reported meetings were held over the summer to work on the Health Fair which will be October 10 at the Senior Center. Twenty-three vendors are expected including CVS, People’s Bank, the Jewish Home, Trumbull PD and Trumbull EMS. She noted help is needed to set up on Thursday prior and to be available on the day of the fair.

Mrs. Yahwak noted they have a club that uses the snack bar for their meetings but they do not allow other members of the center to join. She noted that an executive decision was made that the center is for all seniors who joined it. This club has been offered the meeting room in the basement but they do not want to hold their meetings in that room. It was felt that they should not be accommodated in the snack bar as that area should be open to all members. The club is not charged for the meeting room

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting – September 26, 2014

although they do give a donation to the center. Mrs. Yahwak noted that unless they can show in their charter that they are open to everyone, they cannot hold their meetings in the snack bar as that would require them to be an open club. They do not have a policy stating that they are a closed organization. However, until the charter is reviewed and they have invited new people, this remains a problem. After further discussion, it was agreed to see what happens next month before any action is taken. All members of the club are members of the Senior Center. It is the feeling of the Chairperson that, if you are a member of the Senior Center, you should be allowed to join any group there. The Center is being generous by allowing them to meet downstairs.

The Senior Picnic was held at Town Hall. This picnic is sponsored by the Rotary Club. The seniors do all the work with the Rotary Club members doing the cooking. It was suggested that this picnic be for all seniors in the town not just members of the Senior Center and not just for a specific number (125). This was discussed at one of the summer meetings and it was felt that the town should take over the senior picnic, hold it at one of the parks and open it to all the seniors in Trumbull who want to come. It was suggested to the Rotary that they could provide the funding for this but it is unknown whether they would do this. It is also unknown if the town would undertake this event as the Senior Center cannot provide funding for such a large event. Discussion. It was felt by limiting the number of tickets takes away the meaning of a senior picnic as only certain seniors can go. This idea has not been brought to the town but Rotary does not like this concept. It was noted that if the Rotary is willing to host this picnic, they should be able to make the rules and the 125 limit seems acceptable. It was also noted that it has been brought up at a Board of Finance meeting each year that the senior picnic should be for all seniors. It is uncertain if the Board of Finance will pay for a picnic that includes all the seniors in town. It was felt by the commissioners that, if the Board of Finance feels this way, they should pay for it. This topic will be discussed again by the Board of Finance and the chairman would like to have it resolved. Commissioners were asked to think about this recommendation.

Smile-A-While is doing a performance on October 17. Each year the commission gives them a grant for \$500 because they do performances at nursing homes all over the area and we see how these people love it. They also do two performances at the Senior Center. Mrs. Yahwak requested a renewal of the grant for \$500 to the Smile-A-While organization to cover their expenses. Mr. Foligno motioned to approve the \$500 grant for the Smile-A-While organization; seconded by Mrs. Chiota and approved unanimously.

Ludlow Health Center will be taking care of the movie and a lunch and it will be held at their facility on October 16. They have done this the last three months. Reservations are required.

The monthly birthday party will also be on October 16 hosted by Northbridge Health Care. Reservations are required. Party is at 11:00 am.

Mrs. Yahwak noted that last year the center had a very nice Halloween party. This year the center would like to give everyone a big Christmas party. It was recommended that there be a Halloween party

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting – September 26, 2014

with costumes and prizes, but instead of serving a meal they could do apple cider, apples, donuts, and candy. They could do this for around \$300-\$400 and save the rest of the money for the “Holiday” party. Motion was made by Mrs. Bellows that we give the Center \$300 to spend on a Halloween party instead of a luncheon. Seconded by Mr. Foligno. Motions passed unanimously.

Mrs. Yahwak noted that some of the families in Trumbull are having difficulties and it was recommended that the Center give out gift certificates to approximately six families from Stop & Shop at Thanksgiving. These certificates would be in addition to the donations from the Social Services. Motion was made by Mr. Foligno that we allow up to 15 gift certificates in the amount of \$25.00, seconded by Mrs. Chiota. Motion passed unanimously.

The Christmas Party is scheduled for December 12. That is also the day of the Smile-A-While performance at the Center. We will be serving a meal and Santa will be there to give out little gifts. Help is needed from the Commissioners that day. The Center will also need about \$1,200. Motion was made by Mrs. Bellows to approve \$1,500 towards the Christmas/Holiday party with the stipulation that whatever is not spent will be returned. Seconded by Ms. Merritt. Motion was approved unanimously.

The individuals from the different nursing homes have donated a lot of things to the Center. Mrs. Yahwak would like to have a thank you tea for them in January to acknowledge their donations. The commissioners felt this was a great idea.

Director’s Report

In the absence of Mrs. Ferreira, Mrs. Yahwak presented the following:

1. Mrs. Ferreira needs any help the commission can give her during the absence of her staff.
2. The Annual Report was distributed to the commission, noting the last page with the Special Agency budget. Commissioners were requested to review for discussion at the next meeting.

Old Business

1. The \$150,000 grant has been approved and the plan for the kitchen is being discussed with the town.
2. Upcoming Center trips were discussed. Mrs. Bellows noted the 911 trip was superb. Mrs. DeZenzo and her husband were thanked for working on these activities.
3. Additional discussion was held regarding the grant for the kitchen. The Senior Citizen Commission was not informed of the approval before it was announced in the paper. Mrs. Yahwak noted the seniors will have the opportunity to give input to the project when it moves into that stage. There is no time limit on the grant. Mrs. Bellows noted that First Selectman Herbst and Town Council Chairman Carl Massaro are working on a plan for a new senior center. She was concerned with the plans for the new kitchen and then moving to another facility. It was noted that the kitchen would be moveable if that happened. Mrs. Yahwak noted the new center is all speculation and she will speak to Lynn Arnow when she is back in the office.

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting – September 26, 2014

New Business

1. The senior brochure needs to be revised – term limits need to be changed from four to two years. Motion was made by Mrs. Chiota to make the changes to the brochure; seconded by Mr. Foligno and approved unanimously.
2. Next meeting is October 24, 2014.
3. A letter from an individual who came to see the Smile-A-While performance with her mother will be printed in the newsletter.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Chiota, seconded by Mr. Foligno, to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 am. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the next meeting of the Senior Citizen Commission.