

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting – December 19, 2014

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission

December 19, 2014

10:00 am

Long Hill Conference Room

The Senior Citizen Commission of the Town of Trumbull held a scheduled meeting on December 19, 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, Amy DeZenko and alternates Maureen Gordon and Gail D’Elia.

Also present: Senior Center Director, Jean Fereira

Absent: Joan Mehlhorn

This is a brief summary of the meeting.

A quorum being present, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:03 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Elections

Mrs. Chiota noted the Charter states election of officers is held in December of each year. The following elections were conducted:

1. Mrs. Chiota nominated Rachel Yahwak as Chairperson of the Senior Commission, seconded by Mrs. DeZenko. There were no other nominations; approved unanimously.
2. Mrs. Bellows nominated Ron Foligno as Vice-Chairperson of the Senior Commission, seconded by Mrs. DeZenko. There were no other nominations; approved unanimously.
3. Mrs. Yahwak nominated Dee Chiota as Secretary of the Senior Commission, seconded by Mrs. DeZenko. There were no other nominations; approved unanimously.

Past Minutes

Correction noted that all references to the Senior Center Director should be “Ms”. Motion made by Mrs. Chiota to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Mrs. DeZenko and approved unanimously.

Mrs. DeZenko and the commission thanked Barbara for her work as clerk during the year with the commission.

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Secretary's Report

Mrs. Chiota had no report.

Chairman's Report

Mrs. Yahwak noted the following:

1. Rita Grossi has resigned from the commission effective January 1, 2015. She extended a thank you to Mrs. Grossi for all her work and assistance during her many years of service on the Commission.
2. New kitchen – no update.
3. Christmas Party – this was fun and she thanked everyone for helping. Discussion was held regarding logistics for next year. It was felt that two performances from Smile-A-While would be held and some of the suggestions made will be implemented in 2015.
4. Senior Brochure – Ms. Merritt noted it would be easier to place an insert into the brochure to correct the term limits instead of re-doing the entire brochure. Ms. Ferreira requested a copy to post on the bulletin board.
5. Thank you to everyone who worked on the Thanksgiving baskets and the \$25 gift certificates. Both were a big success. It was noted that the number of gift certificates should be increased next year to cover the need.
6. Thank you to Smile-A-While for a great job.
7. Upcoming events – Senior Center will close at 1pm on 12/24/2014 and is closed 12/25/2014 and 12/26/2014, 1/1/2015 and 1/19/2015. Bingo is 1/23; Birthday Party is 1/15 and Lunch & a Movie is 1/30.
8. A temp will be starting on Monday to help at the Senior Center.
9. A thank you tea/lunch will be scheduled for February for Northbridge and other nursing homes that have contributed to the Senior Center as sponsors. This will be held around Valentine's Day and Mrs. DeZenko will put together the invitation. Other volunteers who have helped throughout the year will be recognized at the same time. Motion was made by Mrs. Bellows to put a cap on the thank you celebration for the volunteers of \$500 and any money not spent will go back into the fund. Seconded by Mr. Foligno and approved unanimously.
10. Budget was discussed. Mr. Foligno assisted Ms. Ferreira in the preparation of the 2015/2016 budget. There is a slight increase from last year. Ms. Ferreira noted she completed the face sheet required for the budget presentation with information from the pamphlet, including goals, objectives and accomplishments in the past year. Mrs. DeZenko noted the title of the First Selectman's Assistant be changed to Chief of Staff. Meeting with the First Selectman is set for January. Mrs. Yahwak and Mr. Foligno will attend this meeting also.
11. Discussion of the Red Hats was held. This is a restricted club using space at the center. They have made a request to publicize an open invitation to Senior Center members to become a part of the organization. They would like to publish the announcement in the newsletter. Previously members of the center were not accepted into the group. Ms. Ferreira discussed the use of the center by groups. She noted it is on a first come/first serve basis. Clubs may meet but everyone must become a member. Walk-ins must be allowed in every meeting/function because they are

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members of the center. Further discussion was held regarding the promotion of a particular organization. Mr. Foligno noted the group does make a contribution to the center. It was questioned whether their open enrollment means they want a different room. Ms. Ferreira noted open enrollment does not entitle you to a different room. Mrs. Bellows recommended that we not put this announcement in the next newsletter until they have been spoken to and it has been clarified that they are welcome to put it into the newsletter with the understanding that they have to use the nutrition room. Once they agree to that, then we can put the announcement in the newsletter. A flyer will be requested for insert into the newsletter at the appropriate time. It was also suggested that Mrs. Yahwak and Ms. Ferreira meet with them to ask them what their plans are for the future in using the Senior Center and instruct them that it cannot be a closed meeting. Center rules and regulations apply. A meeting will be set with the Red Hats. Mrs. DeZenzo also noted they should be instructed that a follow-up of the discussion will be reported to the Senior Commission. Mr. Foligno noted that the Center does not promote any other group and questioned whether, if we do this, would we have to promote other groups. This will be taken into consideration.

12. Thank you note will be put into the newsletter as a general thank you from the Senior Commission to all volunteers.

Director's Report

Ms. Ferreira noted the following:

1. Thanked the volunteers who worked on the Christmas party.
2. A letter was received from the Mallot Trust with a donation of \$3,000. A thank you was written stating what the funds would be used for. Some of the funds will be used for a program sponsored by the Chef from Northbridge on simple healthy cooking for two. She is also trying to have seniors send their favorite recipes to the Chef and so he can make them healthy and simple. This may be televised for all seniors to view.
3. Final budget was distributed.
4. Pipe has been cleared by the town. The art class has been affected but a new room has been cleared for their pictures. Teachers are monitoring the chemicals going down the drain.

Old Business

1. Additional discussion was held regarding the Christmas Party. The following suggestions were made for next year:
 - a. Tickets – should be given out when people sign in at the center on event day. Members register prior to the event and just need their name to be checked and then give them a ticket. Any problems can be addressed separately.
 - b. Food – more than one line should be established to get the food. Smile-A-While members should have their own food.
 - c. Entertainment – discussion was held regarding two presentations and various ways to host the programs. Discussion was also held regarding the use of alcohol with minors present. It was moved by Mrs. DeZenzo that Mrs. Yahwak speak with Lynn Arnow

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concerning the use of alcohol in the Senior Center for any activities, and if need be, the town attorney should make a jurisdiction of activities in the Center. Seconded by Mrs. Chiota and approved unanimously.

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

1. Mrs. Chiota will work to fill the vacancy on the commission. Letters of reappointment from the First Selectman are being done. She will send a thank you to Rita for her service on the commission.
2. Next meeting will be held on January 23, 2015 in the Long Hill Conference Room.
3. Mrs. Yahwak extended Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. She noted the commission achieved many accomplishments this year
4. due to the hard work of its members. Mrs. Chiota thanked Ms. Ferreira for all her hard work at the Center.
5. Meeting dates for 2015 were reviewed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. DeZenko, seconded by Mr. Foligno, to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk