

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission
February 27, 2015
10:00 am
Long Hill Conference Room

The Senior Citizen Commission of the Town of Trumbull held a scheduled meeting on February 27, 2015 in the Long Hill Conference Room at the Trumbull Town Hall.

Members Present: Chairperson, Rachel Yahwak; Vice Chairperson, Ron Foligno; Roberta Bellows, Dorothy Merritt, Alternates Maureen Gordon and Gail D'Elia.

Also present: Senior Center Director, Jean Ferreira

Members Absent: Amy DeZenzo, Dee Chiota and Joan Mehlhorn

Mrs. Yahwak opened the meeting at 10:05am noting a quorum was present with Mrs. D'Elia becoming a voting member for this meeting. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

Mrs. Yahwak called an Executive Session at 10:07am to discuss Social Services. The following Commission members were in attendance: Rachel Yahwak, Ron Foligno, Roberta Bellows, Dorothy Merritt, Maureen Gordon and Gail D'Elia. Motion was made by Mrs. Yahwak to close the Executive Session at 10:15am. Seconded by Mrs. Bellows and approved unanimously.

Secretary's Report

No report.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Merritt, seconded by Mrs. Bellows, to approve the minutes of January 23, 2015 as written. Unanimous.

Chairman's Report

Mrs. Yahwak noted the following:

1. A thank you note was received from Social Services for activities of the Commission over the holidays. Mrs. Bellows made a motion that the Commission give a grant of \$500.00 to Social Services. Who will get the benefit of the grant will be decided by Social Services and Social Services will be in charge of distributing money from the grant as long as the Commission has the funds available. This grant will be used only for seniors. Seconded by

Ms. Merritt. Ms. Ferreira will take care of the details and inform the chairperson of any disbursements. Motion was approved unanimously.

2. Mrs. Yahwak met with the Finance Board two weeks ago and, although they were very nice and agreed with what the Commission had to say, the Senior Center will be losing a bus driver position. The Board of Finance felt the drivers are not being used as efficiently as they could be. Therefore, they will be taking away one driver position and the schedule will be rearranged. Mrs. Yahwak indicated to them that if they did anything, to make sure they did not change the doctor's schedules which run five days per week. The Town is considering changing this schedule to four days per week. Lynn Arnow is working on a schedule with Ms. Ferreira for the drivers which include doctors, nutrition and shopping. A trial of the new schedule will be done in May but it does not actually go into effect until July.
3. The second change in the budget will be that only one part time person will be in the office. This person will work 19.5 hours per week. When this person leaves, unless the director remains, there will be no one in the office. The Town has suggested that from 1-4pm, after this individual leaves for the day, the Center be put on an answering machine. Mrs. Yahwak indicated to the Board of Finance that this was not acceptable. This is a safety issue, an insurance issue and the Town should not be doing this. The suggestion was made that when the director is not in the building and the part time person leaves for the day, an employee from town hall would come to the Center and sit at the desk. This is not the best answer but is the most likely scenerio. Special Agency Funds and programs were untouched. Lengthy discussion was held regarding this change. A volunteer cannot be used to man the desk because of liability. The biggest problem is confidentiality. Vacations and sick time will be a problem. Mrs. Bellows stated she did not understand if we can't staff someone at the window, why are we thinking about building a new senior community center? If we can't afford this, how do we justify a new center? Mrs. Yahwak brought this up to the town indicating they are looking at a new center yet they take away from the seniors their bus driver and office staff. Instead of honoring the seniors, the town is devaluing them. Building security was discussed. To eliminate this concern, the town will be installing cameras and a time clock. However, this type of system is after the fact. Ms. Ferreira has spoken with the Finance Director about overtime coverage in certain instances. She is also working on CPR certifications for staff. Mrs. Yahwak thanked the Commissioners who attended the budget meeting.
4. Thank you gift cards for the sponsor facilities will be distributed on March 11.
5. The following activities were noted: Lunch and a Movie – March 6. The movie is Bells. Mrs. Yahwak thanked Mrs. D'Elia for her donation of a big screen TV to the Center which includes speakers. The Birthday Party is March 13. St. Patrick's Bingo is March 20. Irish Celebration sponsored by St. Joseph Center is March 27. Tax prep will continue through April 15.

Director's Report

Ms. Ferreira noted she is working on a grant for another bus. The maximum is 50,000 miles over five years on the busses.

Membership money has been received. Seniors are very interested in becoming members throughout the year not just in July. A senior assessment will be conducted asking the seniors what they need which can be a valuable tool for the director.

Open House for May will be discussed at a later meeting.

Old Business

1. Discussed
2. Discussed
3. Brown Bag Lunch with First Selectman has been postponed until April.
4. Connie Cleary of the Red Hats contacted Mrs. Yahwak. Until there is a meeting between the Red Hats and the Center, the Commission position remains the same.
5. Trips were discussed. Mrs. DeZenzo received brochures which were distributed to the Commission for review. Suggestion was made that an overnight trip or a cruise might be fun. This has been done in the past and was well attended.

New Business

1. Ms. Merritt noted the table cloths in the Nutrition Room are worn and dirty. Ms. Fereira noted new cloths have been donated and they will be replaced soon.
2. Ms. Merritt asked if a bulletin board could be placed in the Nutrition Room to hang notices. Currently they are hung on the wall. Ms. Fereira is looking into cork boards for three locations in the building, including the Nutrition Room.
3. Ms. Fereira noted that while she is out on medical leave, any questions should be directed to Lynn Arnow.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mrs. D'Elia, seconded by Mrs. Bellows, to adjourn the meeting at 11:02am.
Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk