

Senior Citizen Commission – September 23, 2016

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission
September 23, 2016
10:00 am
Long Hill Conference Room – Town Hall

The Senior Citizen Commission of the Town of Trumbull held a scheduled meeting on September 23, 2016 in the Long Hill Conference Room in the Trumbull Town Hall.

Members Present: Chairperson Ron Foligno; Commissioners Roberta Bellows, Dee Chiota, Amy DeZenzo, Gail D'Elia, Evelyn Wiesner and Mary Moran

Also Present: Lynn Arnow, Chief of Staff (entered at 10:25 am)

Members Absent: Commissioner Dorothy Merritt

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Mr. Foligno followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Past Minutes

Two corrections were made to the minutes – Page 1 under Public Comment – name should be Mary Lou “Roof”; Page 3, New Business #3 should read “Mrs.” Chiota. Motion was made by Mrs. Chiota to approve the minutes of August 26, 2016 as amended. Seconded by Mrs. Bellows and approved. Abstentions by Mrs. Moran and Ms. Wiesner.

Mr. Foligno noted Ms. Jakab was unable to attend the Commission meeting as she was attending the Fairfield County Senior Center Director’s meeting.

Director’s Report

Mr. Foligno reported for Ms. Jakab:

1. Computer classes at the Center are going well. The instructors are very knowledgeable with extensive backgrounds in technology. Classes are for tablets and PCs, however, they will also help with iPhones. Twelve sessions for \$10.00.
2. New senior shopping trips have been added to the newsletter.
3. Tai Chi Quan for seniors has been added and is open to the public. This is being done in conjunction with Bridgeport Hospital through a grant. Ms. Jakab is trying to find a way to keep the program at the center once the funding runs out.

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4. The Center will have two Sacred Heart University interns starting September 19. They will be at the Center for 16 hours a week for two semesters. They will work with EMS and Social Services to increase outreach in the community.
5. Additional day trips have been added to the list.
6. Ten card tables were purchased. Ms. Jakab thanked the Commission for their purchase.
7. The Health Fair is October 14 from 10am-1pm. She is looking forward to the Commission's help during the fair. Discussion was held regarding a greeting table. It was agreed that the Commissioners should circulate throughout the room.
8. Ms. Jakab has 20 box lunches for the vendors for the fair and asked if the Commission would be willing to provide an additional 20 lunches should she not be able to secure a sponsor. After discussion, Mrs. Chiota moved that the Senior Commission underwrite the additional 20 box lunches provided they are equal to the 20 provided by Split Rock and Middlebrook Farms. Seconded by Mrs. Moran and approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Foligno reported the following:

1. Tap Boards – Mr. Foligno noted Ms. Jakab has been instructed by the Finance Department that tap boards cannot be purchased as it would be buying materials for specific instructors. These boards are used only for this activity

Mrs. Arnow entered the meeting at 10:25 am.

Mrs. DeZenko noted these boards are for the protection of the newly refinished floors and these would be replacements for the ones the Center already purchased a long time ago. Further discussion. It was noted these boards are also used for Smile-A-While productions at the Center. Ms. Jakab will be asked to clarify the Finance Department's statement and investigate the financial implications of making a donation to Smile-A-While towards these boards.

2. Financial report was reviewed. Discussion was held regarding the income/loss for the meal program. Mrs. Arnow explained to the Commission that the Town decided to contract directly with Creative Culinary which eliminated the funding from the State to cover any losses that may occur. CW Resources won the State bid for the meal programs. The Town could, in the future, contract with Creative Culinary through CW Resources and the funding would be available with the cost absorbed by CW Resources. It was agreed by the Commission that the program should be in place for a year and then be evaluated. This is a state mandated program; the town could absorb the deficit and this is a possibility to be looked into. Mrs. Arnow suggested the possibility of local organizations support. Mrs. DeZenko suggested grants should be looked into. It was also suggested that Ms. Jakab approach the seniors and speak to them about the program and the alternative should it need to go back to the previous system. Mrs. Chiota moved to table this discussion until the next meeting. Seconded by Mrs. DeZenko and approved unanimously.

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3. Calendar dates were reviewed. Motion was made by Mrs. Moran to approve the dates as amended. Seconded by Mrs. Bellows and approved unanimously.
4. Newsletter is growing.
5. Focus group meeting on the new Community Center/Senior Center will be held on September 28 from 2-4 pm at the Senior Center. Mrs. Bellows noted the architect was good. Gave positive feedback on all comments.

Old Business

All topics previously discussed.

New Business

1. Mrs. Chiota reviewed an email sent to the Chairman of the Commission regarding Executive Sessions. After discussion, Mrs. Arnow noted that the town attorneys are addressing this email. A training session will be held with all board and commission chairs conducted by Mr. Tom Hennick from Freedom of Information.
2. Mrs. Arnow gave an update on the Community Center/Senior Center. She noted the architect, Quissenberry Arcari, was chosen. Mr. Arcari is currently conducting focus group meetings with various organizations as well as district meetings to gather information. Meeting dates have been provided to all town residents and robo calls are being sent for the District meetings. Mrs. DeZenzo noted that, given the negativity in the past, the architect is getting information from the community. Accolades to the Committee for getting more input and what they have done on this project. Funding was discussed; anything over \$15 million must go to referendum.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. DeZenzo to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am. Seconded by Mrs. Moran and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

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