

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Commission on Aging Meeting
Friday, September 29, 2023
Senior Center, 23 Priscilla Place
2:00 pm

Present: Michel Ganino, Ron Foligno, Mark Ryan, Nancy Lucas and Linda Randall

Absent: Evelyn Wiesner and Alissa Heilbrunn

Also Present: Cindy Katske, Chief Administrative Assistant and Rina Bakalar, Economic and Community Development Director

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by Mr. Ganino followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Resident Comments

Marla Rubin and Suzette Sicisco discussed the possibility of extending the pickleball court availability on Monday and Wednesday noting they start at 12:30 pm but must end at 3:00 pm. She suggested an end time of 3:30 pm as no other class comes in after them. Ms. Jakab is aware of this request.

Mr. Ganino introduced Rina Bakalar who discussed the Senior Discount Program being considered for update by the Commission. She noted many businesses are still recovering from COVID and still face many challenges with labor, rent and supplies. The goal of the program should be mutually beneficial to both the businesses and the seniors. Although pre-COVID it was a good program, it may not be the time to bring it back in such a large scale. Ms. Bakalar would like to team up with the Commission on the Main Street Dollars program because it directly benefits both the businesses involved and the seniors. She explained the program noting she will be looking to raise corporate money to expand the list of participants. Last year's participants included Pure Poetry, Plaskos, City Line Florist, Experiment VR, Escapology and Next Chapter Books.

Mrs. Bakalar answered questions regarding the Market Feasibility Study in the mall area noting the town has held meetings to hear what residents would like to see so they can create a vision.

She is working with retailers and investors who have reached out to the town. Meetings will be scheduled in December and January for additional input. She also spoke briefly about the new senior center, low and affordable housing and new businesses opening in town.

Mr. Ganino noted the Commission would re-evaluate the Senior Discount Program taking into consideration the recommendations made by Ms. Bakalar.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Lucas to approve the minutes of August 25, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Randall and approved with one abstention from Ms. Lucas.

Reports

1. Secretary's Report – no report.
2. Senior Center Director's Report – Mrs. Jakab was unable to attend but sent a written report which is attached to the minutes.
3. Stern Village Report – no report.

Old Business

1. Defibrillator - on back order.
2. Seniors in the Schools – setting up a meeting with Dr. Semmel to discuss the program. At this time, there are not enough volunteers to do what they would like. Various recruiting strategies are being considered.
3. Senior Lunch – lunch is available on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
4. New Senior Center – final plans and financials are being developed. Next committee meetings are October 25 and November 21.

New Business

1. Priscilla Place Gardens – Parks and Recreation is discussing this with Mrs. Jakab.
2. Senior Center Pantry Update – Ms. Ganino noted he will be sharing a portion of the food items donated with the Monroe Food Pantry and other food distribution locations as the amount is large enough to do so.
3. COVID, Flu, RSV Shots – Shots are now available. Free COVID test kits are available at COVID.gov.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Lucas to adjourn the meeting at 3:26 pm. Seconded by Mr. Foligno and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

Commission on Aging

Social Services

- Judith Cahill now the official Admin in our social services office. Congrats and welcome to the team Judy!
- Staff are getting ready for holiday food drives.
- Energy (heating) assistance is open to apply

Senior Center,

- We added a new line dancing class. Attendance is through the roof and it has been transitioned to a weekly, ongoing class.
- Trumbull Library is sponsoring a free gift wrapping for Trumbull residents 55+ or with a disability. It will be hosted at the senior center. More information to come. It will be in November newsletter.
- There will be a holiday variety show this year. Be sure to look for your friends and instructors on stage!
- The information requested by the chair will be a bit time consuming to put together but it can be presented next month to the commission. In the meantime, if it helps, Most of the info is already available on the town website. Here is the direct link to the town budget.

<https://www.trumbull-ct.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/4219>.

The senior center budget starts on page 349. You can find the org chart, list of current positions, pay rates and of course our budget. We plan our activity budget a year in advance during the budget approval process. All fees collected are posted to each member's account, then deposited. The monies collected go straight to the general fund, we do not have usage of those funds. We are required to budget for our programs and needs a year in advance during the budget process.

Our mission statement is right at the top of our website. <https://www.trumbull-ct.gov/281/Senior-Center>. We have 192 non resident members and 1044 resident members. These are active members. Meaning they have up to date registration and have participated in the last 12 months.

Regarding the financials, we receive revenue from fees and donations. They are all categorized and broken down by department. I can have figures for the next meeting.