

Senior Services Commission

February 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Anne Kaiser at 10:32 a.m.

Present: Judy Benvenuto, Deirdre Daly, Ann Jordan, Anne Kaiser, Bonnie Sprague, Judy Norris, and Linda Worden.

Absent: Patricia Snow, Steven Falco, Mertie Terry

Others: Amy Saada – Senior/Human Services Director

Al Waters- Town Council

Paula Luna – Town Council

Sal Nesci – Director of Public Health

Kathleen Cartwright – Cromwell Resident

Diane Wiegert - Cromwell Resident

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to Approve by Judy Norris, seconded by Bonnie Sprague. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2023 Regular Meeting made by Judy Benvenuto, seconded by Judy Norris. All in favor. Motion carried.

Director of Public Health Update – Sal Nesci

Sal Nesci provided the following updates.

1. The Cromwell Health Department held a Vaccine Clinic on February 7, 2024 . Vaccines included RSV, Flu & Covid vaccines.
2. There are free covid tests for residents available for pickup in the Senior Center and the Cromwell Health Department office. The extension of expiration dates of test kits are announced closer to the kits expiring, and dates can be checked by visiting the CDC website.
3. The Cromwell Health Department is working on starting a program in collaboration with the Cromwell Fire Department to distribute and install combination fire and carbon monoxide detector alarms.
4. There are free Radon Test kits available in the Health Department for residents.

Council Liaison Update – Al Waters

Councilman Waters provided the following updates

1. Cameras around town hall are being taken down as a result of the town employee climate study feedback.
2. Residents are concerned about the plans for a proposed 8 million dollar sports complex/athletic field. Their concerns include noise and overall costs being high.
3. New businesses are opening soon in Cromwell including an Auto Zone, a bakery , a Mexican restaurant, and Texas Roadhouse.
4. A discussion was had about Councilman Waters' Letter to the Editor of Cromwell Life in support of a Cromwell Community Center.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada reported on the following.

Grants/Funding Updates

\$2880.00 Tai Ji Quan, Moving for Better Balance Grant – program started February 6th and will run through July 30th. Funding is from the CT Healthy Living Collaborative.

Department of Transportation 5310 FY23 Grant Cycle is currently open and we will plan to apply for a new vehicle. Application is due by April 2, 2024.

Senior Center room improvements are being made. A wall came down to provide a bit more space in the Senior center and we are awaiting cabinet and furniture quotes. Funding is from the State Unit on Aging ARPA funds.

February Special Programs:

- 2/6- Super Bowl Party (37 in attendance and too many for the space!)
- 2/5- Drumming Circle (12 in attendance and feedback was they want it on a regular basis)
- 2/7- Chinese New Year celebration
- 2/12- Vision Board Workshop
- 2/13- Medicare Information Lunch & Learn
- 2/15- Speed Dating Event
- 2/20- Bingo Event with MediMike (Medicare information).
- 2/27- Social Security Administration- Snack & Learn on benefits.

AARP Tax program appointments are booked through April.
Thursday March 7th from 12:00-4:00 we will have AAA Driving course, \$15.00

Local Trips this Month

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- 2/7- Stew Leonard's and Wood n Tap
- 2/14- Carousel Museum & J. Timothy's Tavern
- 2/22- CT Flower and Garden Show at CT. Convention Center
- 2/28- IKEA and lunch in the cafe

Friendship Tours Upcoming Trips:

March 16, 2024	Fireplace Feast at Salem Cross Inn	\$147
March 27, 2024	The Orchid Show at New York Botanical	\$124
May 1, 2024	Daffodil Days Narragansett Bay	\$139
May 14, 2024	Neil Diamond The Tribute from Las Vegas	\$94
June 21, 2024	The Naugy Scenic Train, Naugatuck River Valley	\$124
June 16-23, '24	Bermuda Cruise from NJ	\$1449
September 5-16 '24	Escorted Mediterranean Cruise	\$3799
November 9-23, '24	Escorted Repositioning Cruise Southern Caribbean	\$2549
December 4-8 '24	Escorted San Antonio Holiday	\$2799

Old Business

A. Senior Center ARPA Funding Project Space Needs

Amy Shared that the Senior Center space has been expanded and awaiting additional updates. Future plans include locked Food Bank storage/cabinetry lining the hall of the

Senior Center. Amy added that Food Bank grants will help support the cost of this project. Amy reported additional updates are needed including refiguring reception to include privacy for drivers and staff, and additional office storage for staff.

New Business

A. State Unit on Aging 3-Year Strategic Plan

Amy suggested that this is a good time for the community to voice what's needed for Seniors in Cromwell and for the Senior Committee to voice their input in Community Listening Sessions taking place now through March 11. Amy also suggested that the committee call their local State Representatives to include thoughts on the state's strategic plan.

B. Senior Commission Membership process and bylaws on membership

Anne Kaiser discussed the current membership bylaws and current committee members who do not regularly attend meetings. Anne had met with Mayor Demetriades to get his input. Anne reported that she spoke to Mertie Terry and Mertie is willing to step down at the end of her term if there was someone to take her place. She reported that Mayor Demetriades suggested providing a record of attendance to keep the Cromwell Town Council informed of committee members with low attendance. Amy added that all committee members will be up for reappointment in 2024. All committee members in attendance were asked if they would accept reappointment to the committee, all members answered yes. Amy suggested that the committee check that their political affiliations are correct before April.

C. New resource- Bring Me Back Home Registry

Amy reported that the Bring Me Back Home Registry is a new state registry that the Cromwell Senior Center has partnered with. She explained the registry is for people with Alzhiemers, Autism, cognitive issues; individuals who may wonder of becoming flight risks. She added that the program requires a photo, information that the Police can use when looking for someone who may be missing.

D. Charter Oak State College Interns - 2 interns .

Amy reported that currently the Senior Center and Youth Services both have interns from Charter Oak State College.

Citizen's Comments

Kathleen Cartwright asked for clarification on the Covid Test Kit expiration dates.

Diane questioned budgeting for grants. A discussion was had about grants and the grant writing process.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dledre Daily; seconded by Judy Benvenuto. Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Zeedyk