

Senior Services Commission

March 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Anne Kaiser at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Judy Benvenuto, Deirdre Daly, Ann Jordan, Anne Kaiser, Bonnie Sprague, Judy Norris, Patricia Snow, Diane Wiegert, Mertie Terry, and Steven Falco.

Absent: Linda Worden

Others: Amy Saada – Senior/Human Services Director
Paula Luna – Town Council
Kathleen Cartwright – Cromwell Resident

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve by Judy Norris, seconded by Judy Benvenuto. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024 regular meeting made by Patricia Snow, seconded by Dierdre Daly. All in favor. Motion carried.

Director of Public Health Update – Sal Nesci

Sal Nesci was not in attendance, no report was provided.

Council Liaison Update – Paula Luna

Councilwoman Luna provided the following updates.

1. The next Cromwell Town Council meeting is Wednesday, March 13, 2024.
2. Councilman Waters had recently visited Covenant Village to discuss volunteer opportunities available at the Cromwell Senior Center.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada (report attached)

Amy advised the commission that the Department of Transportation Grant application submission process has started and that if awarded, funds would be used towards a new van. She also added that the van awarded by previous year's grant is due to be received by the Senior Center mid-March, 2024.

Old Business

A. Senior Center ARPA Funding Project Space Needs

Amy reported that the Senior Center had received its first of three cabinetry quotes from Martin Cabinets, the quote is approximately \$32,000. She added that there are plans to move the pool tables into expanded Senior Center space on Monday, March 18.

New Business

A. National Nutrition Month

Amy shared that March is National Nutrition Month. She reported that the Senior Center is fundraising to support Meals on Wheels throughout the month. Anyone interested may make charitable donations starting at \$1, and their names may be displayed in the hallway outside of the Senior Center.

B. New Program/Partnership- Senior Open Swim at Champions Skating Rink

Amy reported that Cromwell Recreation Director, Scott Kieras, has been in communication with Champions Skating Rink management, they are offering a free introductory open swim event for members of the Cromwell Senior Center on April 3, from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Amy added that the Senior Center will provide van transportation to those who need it. She also explained if there is interest, the Senior Center could offer a regularly scheduled swim time that would include an on duty lifeguard. She advised that individual cost would be dependent on the interest as there is a cost to using the pool.

Citizen's Comments

Diane advised the commission that she is a former member of the Central Connecticut Women's Club (CCWC). She added that she is still in communication with the club and could act as a liaison for the Senior Commission, if needed.

Judy Norris asked where the Cromwell Lions Club eyeglass donation bin is located in Cromwell town Hall. Amy advised that the box is located inside the entrance to the Senior Center.

Judy Benvenuto suggested the Senior Center provide a class on bullying for adults.

Anne Kaiser suggested the Senior Center have a presentation on medication safety. Amy advised that the town would soon be hiring a Prevention Specialist and that medication safety information would fall under programs they could facilitate. Amy added that she is working out a solution for the lack of space for her staff and programming.

Judy Norris suggested that the town utilize trailers as a solution to their lack of office and program space. A discussion was had about possible space saving solutions, including town employees working remotely.

The meeting was adjourned by Anne Kaiser at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Zeedyk

March 2024

Senior Center

Grants/Funding Updates

Applying for Department of Transportation 5310 FY23 Grant Cycle for a new vehicle. Application is due by April 2, 2024.

Some Upcoming Special March Programs:

3/7- AAA Safe Driving Class at the Senior Center

03/11- Introduction to Italian

03/12- St. Patrick's Day Lunch Party with live music from the Willie & Jan Band

03/13- Wii Bowling Tournament, we are hosting Bristol Senior Center for a friendly competition!

03/14- March Madness Trivia party

03/19- Identity Theft presentation by M&T Bank

3/19- Symphonic Music Program

3/21- Golf League Information Session, come learn about our very popular golf league & the rules.

3/25- Virtual Travel- Come visit radiant Rwanda with us!

3/26- Makeup Class for Mature Adults

03/28- Storytelling Event

AARP Tax program appointments are booked through April.

Local Trips this Month

03/06- Cheesecake Factory & Blue Back Square

03/13- New Britain Museum of Art and lunch at Angelo's market

03/20- Reins Deli

03/27- Lakeside Bar & Grill

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
July 18, 2024	Relax on the River: The Griswold Inn Riverquest Cruise	\$142
August 20-21	Turning Stone Casino	\$499
September 3-16 '24	Escorted Mediterranean Cruise	\$3799
November 9-23, '24	Escorted Repositioning Cruise Southern Caribbean	\$2549
December 4-8 '24	Escorted San Antonio Holiday	\$2799
March 28-April 7, 2025	Escorted Viking River Cruise, Holland & Belgium	\$4399