

SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2010

The Senior Services Commission meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Mary Konopka, Chairman.

PRESENT: Larry Anderson, Loris Balkun, Claire Hickey, Bud Jackson, Al Kane, Cathy Kelley, Mary Konopka, Helen Zalewski. ABSENT: James Gere, Bernice Hurlbut, Bud Jackson.  
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Claire Hickey, Joyce Norman, Wesley Bell, Theresa Strong and Board of Selectman Liaison Patrick Ahlquist.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Claire Hickey moved, seconded Loris Balkun to move #10 Citizens Comments to #2 on the Agenda; agenda approved as amended.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Mr. Wynn Miller, Belden Library Assoc. member, spoke on proposed referendum in March to address Roads/School Maintenance/Police Dept. communication system update and senior center building project/library expansion. The Library expansion in the "Courtyard", would add 50% space for children's program area. As the Library Association is a non-profit organization they can advertise; however, as the senior center is governed by the town it cannot encourage people to vote or do a pro-motional campaign after referendum date is set. Library grant funds are bonded by the State, it may be 2-3 years before bonding funds are spent. The Library Association's second mailing will include the Senior Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: In SC Director's report, second para., eliminate last sentence - "Stress the need ....." from minutes of Jan. 11 meeting. This statement was the consensus of the SSCommission following group discussion on purpose of new senior center. Cathy Kelley moved, seconded Al Kane to accept revised minutes, Mary Konopka abstained.

SC DIRECTOR'S REPORT: \* Operation Fuel program is on-going with many denials due to change in income criteria, and will continue. \* Energy Assistance will continue to end of April; Operation Fuel will roll into Elect./Gas shutoffs in May. \* Program and Transportation reports mailed out with Agenda - Classes/Programs for Jan. - 726; transportation - 1050. \* Volunteer hours were 141.5 for Jan. \* Dinner/Bingo night is Feb. 11 with entertainment by Northwest Childrens' center. \* Casino trip is March 29 \* Transportation vehicle replacement 5310 grant is in process and will be submitted in March to DOT and Midstate RPA. Will receive "bonus points" on application due to participation and attendance at all Greater Hartford Transit District meetings. \* Budget workshop date to be set. Al Kane moved to accept report, second Claire Hickey, so moved.

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Cathi will give January report at March meeting.

FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER: Store is doing well; Bake Sale date is April 1. Claire made 150 lollipops for February dinner. Friends group letter to the Chronicle editor will be drafted for March. Helen Zalewski moved to accept report, seconded Loris Balkun, so moved.

BOARD OF SELECTMAN LIAISON: Pat Ahlquist reported results of Jan. meeting. Authorized application for federal tax grant for new transportation vehicle; authorized funds for Watrous Park playground improvements and equipment. Town Attorney issues were addressed; an Ethics Policy was adopted with a draft for future commission to be named. Approved transfer station regulations; addressed patron behaviour at Library and installation of mailbox regulations. Contracts are on agenda to be settled; discussed budget and referendum. Bud Jackson moved to accept report, seconded Loris Balkun, so moved.

OLD BUSINESS: Helen Zalewski moved, seconded Claire Hickey that a letter to the Chronicle editor be prepared on behalf of the SSCommission regarding a new senior center. All in favor. b) Theresa will attend the National Convention in March in Chicago to accept a plaque on behalf of the senior center accreditation. Nicki Crawford of Liberty Bank will help Theresa sponsor a celebration in May in honor of us receiving National Accreditation. Theresa hopes for a "Big Banner" for display. c) 2010-2011 budget workshop will be first week in March.

NEW BUSINESS: A) When Senior Services Commission was established in 2009 as an ordinance, it was also requested that the an ordinance be established recognizing the need for a Senior Services Department with Full-Time Director. However, this component was never formally adopted as town ordinance and only referred to as a "resolution". Cathy Kelley moved, Claire Hickey seconded that Theresa draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen requested that this be formally changed from said "resolution" status to a created "town Ordinance". Selectman Flanders will review status. B) Theresa will get public relations boards for new senior center facility prepared for placement in proper locations.

GOOD AND WELFARE: Helen suggested that as a town citizen everyone call a friend to support the Library and Senior Center projects. Thanks to Wesley Bell, Selectman Flanders for attending the meeting today, and Pat Ahlquist for his update.

Claire Hickey moved, seconded Helen Zalewski to adjourn at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Norman, Commission Clerk





