

Senior Services Commission

April 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Luella Landis at 10:33 a.m.

Roll Call: Deirdre Daly Ann Jordan Luella Landis
 Paula Luna Linda Polke Bonnie Sprague (*arrived at 10:49*)
 Mertie Terry

Absent: Shirley Banic Madeline Lowry

Others: Amy Saada, Senior/Human Services Director
 Nick Talbot, Senior Outreach Coordinator

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Paula Luna; seconded by Linda Polke. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2021, Regular Meeting made by Paula Luna; seconded by Deirdre Daly. Mertie Terry abstained (absent at prior meeting). All others in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

Amy received the \$2,500 State Unit on Aging grant. The money will be used to purchase "touchless" items to reopen safely. Amy has applied for the AARP community challenge grant for \$9,400. If awarded, this will be used for a shed to store recreation supplies at Cromwell Landing.

Activities still need to be outside since the Senior Center is still not open. Programs are still virtual except for AARP tax preparation. 130 tax returns have been filed. Outdoor events include a walking club, art in the park, trivia, games and social hours. Virtual programs include bingo, wheel of fortune, cultural travel, current issues, craft classes and exercise programs.

Volunteer week is April 18-24 and there will NOT be an "in-person" event this year.

Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22, 2021 with seniors cleaning up parks in town. The parks will be selected once Amy knows how many volunteers have signed up to help.

May is Older Americans Month and the theme is "Communities of Strength". There will be an outdoor concert on May 26, 2021 at Frisbee Landing. Seniors can sign up to receive free tickets for the food truck.

The Renters Rebate program is now open for those age 65 and older or disabled. The income limit for singles is \$37,600. To apply, people should contact the Human Services Department.

Director of Public Health Update – None

Council Liaison Update – None

Old Business

- A. Older Americans Month Celebration – May 26, 2021 – This was discussed in the Human Services Director's Report. Luella Landis asked for 3-4 volunteers to help at the event. There was discussion about raffle prizes. This will be a free give away; no charge to receive a raffle ticket.
- B. By-Laws Discussion – Paula Luna reviewed the by-laws. There are not a lot of significant changes; mostly clean up and updates. Paula pointed out title changes and revised the order of business to reflect the current Senior Services Commission Agenda. She also reviewed the changes that need to be made to the charter. Amy reminded the group that Pat Ahlquist previously stated that he would bring this to the Town Council.
Motion to approve the proposed changes to the by-laws was made by Mertie Terry; seconded by Deirdre Daly. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business

- A. AARP Community Challenge Grant 2021 – This was discussed in the Human Services Director's Report.

Citizens Comments

There were no members from the public at the meeting, however the Commission members had some open discussion.

Per Amy, there is still no decision on when the senior center will reopen. She is meeting later in the day to discuss in-person programming. It will be challenging to social distance. Bingo was always overcrowded. They may be able to hold virtual and in-person exercise classes in the gym. Exercise classes require 12' distance between participants. Amy said that virtual programs are here to stay.

The Town Hall is open to the public, however appointments are preferred. The library is open with strict rules.

Luella Landis would like to see Marcy's exercise class resumed. This was a low impact class for people with arthritis. This was sponsored by Masonicare (they are not currently doing community outreach). Luella will contact Marcy to see if it can resume.

Linda Polke informed the commission that Ronna (former exercise instructor for 17 years) passed away last week. Amy will send a card to Ronna's family.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Deirdre Daly; seconded by Paula Luna. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman

Recording Clerk