

Senior Services Commission

September 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Luella Landis at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Pat Snow Deirdre Daly Steven Falco
Ann Jordan Anne Kaiser Mertie Terry

Absent: Judy Benvenuto Bonnie Sprague

Others: Amy Saada - Senior/Human Services Director
Nick Talbot – Senior Center Outreach Coordinator

Paula Luna – Town Council
Al Waters – Town Council
Kathleen Cartwright – Cromwell Resident

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Steven Falco; seconded by Deirdre Daly. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2022, Regular Meeting made by Pat Snow; seconded by Deirdre Daly. All in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

Grants/Funding Updates: Amy is applying for a grant through the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for a new Bingo Machine and Flashboard, approx.; \$3800.00, grant due 9/22/22- working with Intern on this grant.

Received a second grant from CT Healthy Living to conduct another 24 week Tai Ji Quan course which will begin in November.

Tina Bickmore, RN hired through Health Department has returned and is available each Tuesday, 9am-12pm and will present on a Health Topic on the last Tuesday of each month at 12:00pm in the dining room.

We had a great turnout for our Party in the Park in Honor of Senior Center Month- we had karaoke, lawn games, and an ice cream truck with approx. 50 in attendance.

In House Billiards Tournament – was held on 9/14/22 and there were approx. 25 in attendance with food and fun!

Pickleball Lessons- began on 9/12 and the class is full at 8 participants. This class will run for 4 weeks. There has been lots of interest and we are looking at offering additional classes.

We hosted an AARP drivers' course on 9/13 with 17 participants.

A new Meditation class began on 9/15 and had 14 participants. This will be an ongoing class Thursdays at 10am due to the interest taught by a volunteer instructor.

Remaining September Programming includes:

Senior Health Fair on 9/23 9:00-1:00pm; Fall Prevention Event on 9/27 at 12:00pm; Trip to Van Gogh on 9/28- trip is full with 34

Staff has also been very busy with continuing education: Grand Connections; Suicide Conference; Hoarding Conference and there is a Senior Center Summit on 9/23 via zoom.

Renters Rebate Program Closes on October 1st- this is a program for Seniors and/or Disabled to receive a rebate check from the State of Connecticut.

Energy Assistance will begin October 1st. This is assistance for primary heating costs for low income.

LIWAP- is Low Income Water Assistance program that people can apply for at the same time as Energy to help with any past due water bills.

October Programming- will have events such as a trip to see scarecrows, pumpkin painting/carving, Halloween Party, Medicare Open Enrollment starts October 15th, so we will have a couple Medicare Educational Events to learn about new updates to Medicare; we will have the Department of Consumer Protection for a Lunch and Learn on Senior Scams; Pickleball will return to indoors twice a week with one day for beginners with less than 1 year experience and the other day for more advanced players.

Director of Public Health Update – N/A

Comment by Anne Kaiser asking if Public Health Director should be coming to their meetings. Amy stated it has always been included on our agendas and believes its in the bylaws as well as the town charter but there is always pertinent information related to seniors such as flu vaccines, updates on Covid, and any other public health issues. Amy mentioned there are flu clinics coming up and the schedule is in the Senior Newsletter.

Council Liaison Update – Al Waters

- School building feels they should be the ones picking the firm
- Approved resolution for sidewalks for \$750,000
- 1.25 million approved for Pierson Park improvements
- Application for Climate Study in review.
- Jay Polke was appointed to the Town Council and Steven Fortenbach was appointed to Mayor and Jack Hennehan is Deputy Mayor.
- Football team is going well
- Moratorium on Retail Marijuana

Ann Kaiser stated Climate Study is not clear to the public what it is about. Some commission members thought it was related to Climate Change. Al Waters explained it is related to a study of the Town Hall Climate in relation to employee satisfaction.

Old Business

a. Community Center Discussion/Updates

Amy received an update from Jon Harriman this morning via and share the email that stated "in our last meeting I was asked to look at fitting in on the football field/old highway garage at Pierson Park. It looks like it could fit, but the football field would have to move to the high school first. I believe the Council has appointed a committee to look at

moving the field, but I don't know anything beyond that".

Discussion followed on the land issues at Pierson and the Silver Petrucelli Feasibility Study that looked at fitting a Community Center at Pierson. Al Waters suggested there be a boring test before building a community center on the land. Discussion on location such as proximity to schools is important to allow youth to attend afterschool programming and recreation programming took place and discussion of the Feasibility Study that was done that stated Pierson Park was not the ideal location and discussion of the Silver Petrucelli update at the Town Council meeting that showed facilities at Watrous Park were all discussed. Amy stated Seniors should remain vocal and attend Town Council Meeting to voice their concerns.

b. Senior Bus/Vehicle Update

Amy sent an email to Lou Spina this morning for an update on the vehicle that is still without an engine. Lou Spina replied that he is trying to work out the logistics of moving the truck from our garage to Cromwell Automotive. It is partially disassembled, so it can't be towed. Discussion on possible solutions such as having Cromwell Automotive work on it at the Town Garage or getting the bus on a flatbed. Al Waters discussed the Mechanic Position that is currently vacant and discussed that the parts for the bus had come in a few days before his last day of employment and he left without fixing the bus for another position.

Amy stated that we are still down a bus and it has resulted in denied rides and a decrease in trips. We have an agreement to share the Portland Bus through November, as it was a 5 year agreement that will get extended to 10 years if neither party wants to terminate the agreement. We have 3 busses every 2 weeks, but 4 drivers. We borrow Recreation's van every 2 weeks to fill in while the bus is down, but we can't transport wheelchair or those requiring the lift in this vehicle.

New Business

- a. **Senior Center Month- September.** Amy had shared that September is Senior Center Month and had asked the Council Liaisons to share with the Town Council on all the activities and programs the Senior Center has/had in honor of Senior Center Month.
- b. **Board Vacancies-** Amy received one resume and letter of interest and handed that to the Amanda Calve for the Mayor to review.

Nick Talbot mentioned the importance of a balanced board. Discussion was had about having a solid representation of all Seniors in the community- a rep from CovLiving, a rep from the Low Income Senior Housing Facilities, a rep from the TCP area, etc.

Citizen's Comments - None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steven Falco; seconded by Deirdre Daly. Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicolas Talbot