

Senior Services Commission

March 13, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Patricia Alsup, at 10:33 a.m.

Roll Call: Patricia Alsup Theresa Fucini Mary Konopka
Madeline Lowry (arrived at 10:42 a.m.) Linda Polke (left at 11:28 a.m.)
Patricia Sienna Helen Zalewski

Absent: Claire Hickey Mertie Terry

Others: Amy Saada, Senior/Human Services Director
Al Waters, Town Council
Sue Charter, Cromwell Resident
Michael Parent, Cromwell Resident

Patricia Alsup introduced Amy Saada, the new Senior/Human Services Director.

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Patricia Sienna; seconded by Helen Zalewski. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the December 12, 2016 Regular Meeting made by Linda Polke, seconded by Helen Zalewski. Theresa Fucini and Mary Konopka abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

Applied for a Connecticut DOT grant for two new buses. This year, Cromwell is in a different "zone" than last year and is not competing with Hartford. Notification date is late May/early June. A grant was written by Joy Hollister, former Senior/Human Services Director, with the Town of Portland to share a bus.

Will apply for Title 111-B and 111-D grants for supportive services and evidence based health promotions. Each grant requires a "match" so Amy will need to work with the Board of Finance.

Amy explained the issues with the Title 111-C grant. She suggested that seniors contact legislators regarding the funding and advocating for change. CRT has cut the lunch program down to 3 days/week.

Amy discussed the new programs and has surveyed seniors about their interests. Mary Konopka expressed interested in a bridge class. Amy will solicit a volunteer instructor in next month's newsletter.

The newsletter has been redesigned to provide more information.

The trips have only been about ½ full. They are going to now be open to out-of-town residents (after Cromwell residents have registered). The committee was in agreement.

The Senior Center now has a facebook page.

Theresa Fucini brought up the Theater Group and the issues involved with having seniors purchase tickets on their own and then sign up for the bus.

Motion to explore obtaining money from the senior account to purchase tickets in advance was made by Linda Polke, seconded by Patricia Sienna. Mary Konopka was absent from the vote. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Theresa will work with Amy on this.

There are many special events in March and April. The shred date is 4/15/17. The CRT nutrition education is 4/17/17. This is a great time to provide feedback.

The next dinner is 4/19/17. Sue Charter (Cromwell resident) expressed concern that people who use walkers and canes have to stand in line to wait. This prompted much discussion. Chairs will be provided in the lobby for those that need them. They will also try to seat guests with limited mobility earlier.

Michael Parent (Cromwell resident) will do the CHOICES Counseling.

The senior donation account balance is \$28,138. Amy explained the benefits of the MySeniorCenter Software which costs \$4,500. A motion to approve the \$4,500 expenditure for MySeniorCenter Software was made by Mary Konopka, seconded by Madeline Lowry. All in favor. Motion carried.

Amy is looking for ideas how to renovate the senior center.

Director of Public Health Update – None

Council Liaison Update – Al Waters

An Asian Grocery store is going in at the former location of SavMor. Kmart is closing. Shop Rite is moving into that plaza. The town is looking for new business for the Northern Tier. The Budget workshop is complete. The Town of Cromwell was well represented at the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Old Business

James Gere (Interim Senior /Human Services Director) submitted the budget before he left.

New Business

(Discussed during the Director's Report)

Citizens Comments

Mike Parent mentioned some needs for the pool equipment. (Other items discussed during the Director's Report).

Good and Welfare

Need to ensure that a "thank you note" to the family of the senior who bequeathed the large gift to the Senior Center was sent.

Motion made by Theres Fucini to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.; seconded by Helen Zalewski. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman

Recording Clerk