

Senior Services Commission

October 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Pat Alsup at 10:30 a.m.

Roll Call:	Patricia Alsup	Theresa Fucini (left at 11:00 a.m.)	Ann Grasso
	Luella Landis	Madeline Lowry	Mike Parent
	Patricia Sienna	Mertie Terry	Helen Zalewski

Absent: Linda Polke

Others: Amy Saada, Senior/Human Services Director
Al Waters, Council Liaison (arrived at 10:35 a.m.)
Sherry-Rose McGuire, Middlesex Community College Intern

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Mike Parent; seconded by Luella Landis. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting made by Mike Parent; seconded by Helen Zalewski. All in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

Amy applied for a Community Foundation grant to purchase a wireless sound system. This grant will be announced at the end of the year.

The scarecrow contest is underway. Please vote.

The library renovations have started and everyone needs to be flexible. Some programs have been canceled or moved.

The average daily attendance for September was 109. There are 9 out trips this month and 5 getaway tour trips.

The theater group has a planning meeting and would like to bring more arts to the center such as creative writing, fashion show, chorus, etc.

The donations for the food bank in September were \$424 and 1,539 pounds of food. The "Feeding our Neighbors" walked raised \$3,400 in cash, checks and gift cards.

Director of Public Health Update – None

Council Liaison Update - Al Waters

The Board of Education came in with a \$500,000 surplus. The hotel near Liberty Bank is going to planning and zoning this month. Starbucks will be breaking ground soon.

The Senior Center possibilities were discussed. Pat Alsup asked Al to keep the Commission informed of the budget meetings so that the commission members can attend.

Old Business

- a. **Community Center/Senior Center Feasibility Study Update** – Per Ann Grasso, Enzo Faienzo is supportive of the feasibility study. As soon as budget preparations begin, the senior commission should be informed.
- b. **Review of Mission Statement** – Pat Alsup distributed a copy of the mission and vision statement to the council to review.

New Business

- a. **Board Appointments** – Pat Alsup spoke to Enzo Faienzo regarding the timing of board appointments and asking commission members if they would like to continue on the senior services commission. If someone would like to join the senior services commission, s/he should reach out to Amy. The board should represent all aspects of the community.
- b. **Senior Center Intern Presentation** – Sherry-Rose McGuire provided an overview to the commission. Currently, there are 4,000 seniors in town. The population is growing. In 2020, 38.1% of the population in Cromwell will be seniors. She made comparisons to similarly sized

towns. Cromwell has 2,450 square feet of space, exercise classes are full and the center is only open from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (so it doesn't accommodate working seniors.)

Cromwell does not charge for classes. With a revised senior/community center, it could possibly be rented out which would provide revenue.

Mertie Terry asked about canceled classes due to the library construction. The commission discussed reaching out to local gyms for space. Mike Parent will explore cost and hours to use the Knights of Columbus Hall. There could be issues with parking and liability.

Al Waters congratulated Mertie Terry on becoming the 1st female appointment to the Fire Commission.

Citizens Comments – None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Parent; seconded by Luella Landis.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman

Recording Clerk