

Senior Services Commission

March 14, 2022

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

Present: Deirdre Daly Steven Falco Ann Jordan
 Anne Kaiser Luella Landis Pat Snow
 Bonnie Sprague

Absent: Judy Benvenuto Mertie Terry

Others: Amy Saada - Senior/Human Services Director
 Paula Luna – Town Council
 Kathleen Cartwright – Cromwell Resident
 John Larson – Cromwell Resident
 Wendy Masse - Cromwell Resident

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022, Regular Meeting made by Steven Falco; seconded by Deirdre Daly. All in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

The "Moving for Better Balance" class will begin on March 15th. There are 15 participants (full class). This was funded with a \$2,880 grant.

The AARP tax program began on February 7th and will run through April 18th. There are 8 preparers who will complete approximately 250 tax returns.

The March 11th travel presentation hosted by Tours of Distinction was well attended with over 40 attendees.

A volunteer luncheon, sponsored by National Healthcare Associates, is scheduled for April 19th at 12:00. Invitations will be sent out later this month to those who have volunteered during the past two years.

Volunteers are needed for a park clean-up event to celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd.

May is Older American's Month. There will be a celebration with a concert in the park on May 26th with food trucks and corn hole.

The Drama Club is preparing for their May 12th performance. It will be a murder mystery and will be held in the Belden Room of the library at 2:30.

Amy has received reimburse requests for purchases. She reminded the Commission that there is a procedure for purchasing items (tax-exempt status, using certain vendors, etc.). She can purchase; not reimburse.

Amy provided budget updates. She requested \$5,980 for PT wages for the arthritis exercise class and the Town Manager recommended this. Amy requested \$1,500 in program subsidies (\$1,000 for the drama club to support three performances; \$500 for LGBTQ specific programming (evening program for support groups, educational awareness events, and food). The Town Manager recommended \$500. This next goes to the Board of Finance.

Director of Public Health Update – N/A

Council Liaison Update – Paula Luna

The Farmer's Market will be run by the town. Stuart Popper will be market master and John Whitney (owner of Phoenix Farm) and Scott Kieras (Parks and Recreation) will be co-managers.

\$5,000 was allocated for conceptual architecture design work for the Senior/Community Center.

Bill Russo requested and received a pay increase for seasonal workers.

The Cromwell Police Department is sponsoring an Easter Bunny "meet and greet" on April 9th.

LED lighting, financed through Key Bank, will be installed at Henderson Field.

The tennis courts at Watrous Park will be going in as soon as possible.

Old Business – Amy Saada

a. Community Center Discussion/Updates– Amy Saada

Amy said to keep the momentum going regarding a new Community / Senior Center. Steven Falco was commended for his comments at the Town Council meeting. A resident who spoke at the Town Council meeting explained that she cannot attend programs due to the size of her wheelchair.

Bonnie Sprague asked if there are any empty buildings. Amy said there should be another building review.

Anne Kaiser asked if Silver Petrucelli has done large buildings. They handled the library renovation and there are problems with the library.

There is a building committee for the schools and members of the Senior Commission could attend some of their meetings to learn their plans. Luella Landis asked how the recent meeting with the Recreation Committee worked out. Anne Kaiser mentioned that the Parks and Recreation department is interested in adding more fields.

If there are concerns with Silver Petrucelli, residents should express their concerns to the Town Council. Anne Kaiser knows a Cromwell resident with extensive facilities experience who might be helpful (not a town employee). At Anne's request, Steven Falco agreed to meet with Kara (library director) to discuss and document the library construction issues.

New Business – None

a. **Town Website Corrections – Luella Landis**

Luella provided corrections to Amy. Amy has made the changes to the Senior website; the Town Manager needs to make the other corrections.

b. **Counting Volunteer Hours – Luella Landis**

Luella discussed the counting of volunteer hours. Amy will provide training using the online system, if necessary.

c. **Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 17-23 – previously discussed under Human Services Director's Report**

Citizen's Comments - None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Deirdre Daly; seconded by Pat Snow. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman
Recording Clerk