

**Senior Services Commission**

**March 12, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Patricia Alsup at 10:34 a.m.

Roll Call: Patricia Alsup Theresa Fucini Ann Grasso (newly appointed to the Commission)  
Luella Landis Madeline Lowry Mike Parent  
Linda Polke Patricia Sienna Mertie Terry  
Helen Zalewski

Absent: Claire Hickey

Others: Amy Saada, Senior/Human Services Director

**Approval/Amendment of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2018, Regular Meeting made by Patricia Sienna; seconded by Luella Landis. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada**

Amy submitted a grant for a 16 passenger bus to be awarded in 2019 (DOT 5310). She is working on the Title 3B grant which would be anything transportation related (administration, bus drivers, etc.) and Title 3D for evidence based programs (such as "Matter of Balance, a 6-8 week healthier living series). Amy will also look into the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.

Amy will attend the DOT Pre-Procurement event on April 4, 2018. She is unable to attend the April 11, 2018 Procurement event however someone from the town garage will attend in her absence. The new bus should arrive in July 2018.

The statistics are up from February: 2,302 (duplicated) and 317 (unduplicated).

The Dining room painting is complete and the furniture should be delivered next week. The television has been installed and cable is being worked on.

The dinner is scheduled for March 15, 2018. The doors will open at 5 pm. The menu is corned beef and cabbage. There are 93 people signed up.

CRT (Community Renewal Team) is going to work on a pilot program with more "grab and go" and healthier café type foods (salad, soup, wraps, yogurt, fruit). This should happen in the summer.

The intern from Goodwin College completed 90 hours in Human and Youth Services. She will return for a summer internship.

The balance in the Senior Donation Account is \$21,034.

The donations for the food bank in February were \$2,244.50 and 1,505 pounds of food.

#### **Director of Public Health Update – None**

#### **Council Liaison Update – None**

#### **Old Business**

- a. Budget – Amy Saada met with the town manager. None of the department heads met with the town council. Ann Grasso asked why the department heads were not part of the town council meeting. Amy replied that it is the town manager's budget and she had met with him. There was a decrease in the transportation amount (Mario's hours will be reduced to 15 hours). Amy will try to make that up with grants. Mertie Terry expressed concern with that. Amy advised that there is a transportation donation account. In addition, the new buses should decrease fuel and maintenance costs. Pat Alsup advised that they could do a line item transfer of funds. Seniors can attend town council meetings to express concern. The commission agreed that they will attend the meetings if the Board of Finance makes another reduction to the senior budget.
- b. Dining Room Update – The painting is complete and looks great. The furniture will be delivered by the end of the week. The televisions are installed and cable is a "work in progress".

- c. Facility Needs Update – Mike Parent met with Enzo Faienzo and gave him the letter that he had been writing. The letter was also sent to the Town Council. Pat Alsup expressed concern that the senior commission did not see and review the letter first. There was a lot of discussion about this.

This will be discussed at Wednesday's Town Council meeting. The Mayor will address it under his comments. Ann Grasso will attend the town council meeting and express the concerns of the senior commission. She will read a letter (which will be reviewed in advance by Amy and the Senior Commission) during "public comments" to soften the letter that was previously sent.

The Parks and Recreation Department is conducting a feasibility study which will cost \$15,000. Mike will meet with Salvatore to see if the Senior Commission (need for an updated senior center) can be part of this feasibility study. Joining the Parks and Rec feasibility study will cost less than having a separate feasibility study.

Amy advised the group that they need a feasibility study before a stand-alone building is even considered. Amy reminded the group that the senior commission has a lot of use during the day of the gym and that they have to share the space and compromise. Mertie Terry asked about the size of the exercise classes (25 participants) and mentioned that the Knights of Columbus building is available and perhaps that could be used for some exercise classes.

- d. Spring Program – Mertie Terry passed around a program draft for the Survivors Swing band event. Luella Landis has heard this band and highly recommended them. The cost for the band is \$420. Mertie will solicit some program ads to offset the cost. Pat Alsup will look at dates (possibly Friday, May 4, 2018) and ask John Maloney to waive the custodian charge.

**Motion for the Senior Commission to approve the May 4, 2018 show with The Survivors Swing Band was made by Mike Parent; seconded by Luella Landis. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Mertie told the commission about the Cromwell Children's Commission and was wondering if donations could go there. Amy Saada will check. Donations for the Spring Program should be made payable to "Cromwell Senior Center" labeled Survivors.

**Motion for the Senior Commission to to use funds for the start up cost of the Spring Program with the Survivors Swing Band was made by Mike Parent; seconded by Madeline Lowry. All in favor. Motion carried.**

#### **New Business**

The commission agreed that they should continue to meet every month (except during the summer). Amy Saada and Pat Alsup are unable to attend the April 2018 meeting.

**Citizens Comments – None**

Motion made by Patricia Sienna to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m.; seconded by Luella Landis. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman

Recording Clerk