

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2022**

- Attending: Steven Katz, Presiding; Kip Burgweger; Carol Burns; James Dougherty; Ann Marie Hynes; Amy Jurkowitz; Ellen Wolfson
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich
- Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. The meeting was held by Zoom.
- Minutes: Minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The Chair asked if there were any corrections. With no corrections mentioned, the Chair noted the Minutes as accepted.
- Chair's Report: S. Katz noted the Friends of the Greenwich Senior Center have been given a \$300,000.00 grant from the State of Connecticut for the renovation project through the efforts of Patricia Burns and State Representative Steve Meskers. He also noted the effects of the Omicron variant and its effects on operations and future program planning.
- Dept. Of Human Services: E. Wolfson reported that the Department will meet tonight. At the last meeting it was noted that a funding request of \$125,000.00 over 3 years was submitted to fund and enhance the TechConnect program run by the Senior Center.
- Nathaniel Witherell: E. Wolfson reported that there was no report.
- SWCCA: A.M. Hynes reported that SWCCA will be meeting tomorrow. At the last meeting it was reported that they had additional funding on hand. Three programs in the Greenwich area were awarded approximately \$50,000 each leaving approximately \$80,000 still on hand to distribute. Friends of
- The Senior Center: A.M. Hynes reported that there was no report.
- Senior Center: L. Helmrich reported
Senior Center Closure
Building is once again closed due to Omicron surge
All programs are back on Zoom with the exception of outdoor activities which have continued
We will hopefully reopen in March
Drive Thru Lunches
We continue to deliver lunches in the back of building to help staff during the cold weather
Parking Permits
Expired permits are no longer honored
Permits will only be issued to those enrolled in building

New Kitchen

Café re design is taking place

Consultant to help with the RFP is in process

Commission

Directors

Report:

L. Contadino reported

COVID-19 Test Kit Distribution

The Commission on Aging and Senior Center worked collaboratively with the Greenwich Police Department for the distribution of COVID-19 Test kits and masks to Greenwich older adults. Over 1,200 test kits were distributed on Tuesday, January 4th and an additional 700 kits on January 6th to agencies and Town residents. The Commission on Aging still has a small amount of test kits and masks available for older adult residents. Anyone in need of these supplies is encouraged to call the Commission on Aging directly 203-862-6710. Test kits can be picked-up directly from our office. Delivery to homebound or non-driving residents must be prearranged.

TechCONNECTT

We continue to work with the Greenwich Country Day School in furthering awareness and utilization of the TechCONNECT program. Recent prevalence of the Omicron variant here in Greenwich has required that we take a step back from the one-on-one face-to-face sessions, but we anticipate reinitiating this program March 1st. We are still accepting referrals for eligible older adults.

Medicare D Open Enrollment

We had an extremely successful Medicare D Open Enrollment period and with the assistance of our staff and certified counselors scheduled telephone consults with all residents that desired our assistance. I did schedule face-to-face consults for individuals that had vision or hearing challenges and those whose native language was not English.

Share-the-Fare

Working on the analysis of 4 fiscal years utilization of the Share-the-Fare program. Letters were sent to 159 unduplicated individuals that the current voucher program would be coming to a close on June 30, 2022 to make way for the new Share-the-Fare program which will begin on July 1st.

Café 299

We entered into a consulting agreement with Brian Finneran of BmF Hospitality Group LLC to help develop the business model of the new café; identify potential vendors and assist with the RFP process and selection of the new culinary services vendor.

Marketing: A. Jurkowitz reported that an RFP has been created.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission will be at 8:30 on February 16, 2022

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty
Secretary