

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2016**

Attending: Patricia. Burns, Presiding; Wendy Blumenthal; Catherine Brennan; Francis Burgweger; Carol Burns; James Dougherty; Steve Katz.
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich; Chicky Krois.
Guests: Christine Edwards, RTM; Nick Edwards, DSS

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 20, 2016 were distributed. Two typographical misspellings were noted and corrected - under "Renovation" in the last sentence change the 13th word from "is" to "its" and under Senior Center Director's Report in the last sentence change the 6th word from "th" to "the". It was requested that under Renovation in the last sentence to add "Historical District" before "Commission". With those corrections and clarification, the Minutes were approved by Motion duly made, seconded and carried.

Chairman's Report: P. Burns reported that Wendy Blumenthal and Kip Burgweger will act as the Nominating Committee and will present a slate at the March meeting to be voted on at the April meeting.

Renovation: P. Burns reported that the plans for the proposed handicapped accessible ramp for the front entrance have been approved and are out to bid. It is hoped that work will start in April. The water line in to the building will have to be moved as it is located where the ramp will be.

GREATS: L. Helmrich reported that GREATS has an election coming up. Its President has moved and new officers need to be elected.

Senior Tax Relief: The availability of senior tax relief was noticed in the Greenwich Time today. The new and prior senior tax relief brochures were distributed.

Social Services: Working on its Strategic plan.

Transportation: C. Burns will meet with TAG and Norwalk Transit to discuss the Easy Access program and getting our members signed up for it. She is also looking into getting our members signed up for Dial-A-Ride. It was suggested that we should also look at services such as Uber and Lift as potential providers of transportation

for our seniors.

Senior Center
Director's

Report: L. Helmrich reported that the robo-call system is now set up to reach all instructors in the event of a cancellation of Senior Center services. The Spring session of Super Noggin has been planned.

Nathaniel
Witherell:

S. Katz reported that Laurence Simon has been elected as the new Chairman of the Nathaniel Witherell Board. He is a very hands on, money focused person and is a former member of the BET.

Director's
Report:

L. Contadino reported that she and Patricia Burns met with the Friends of Nathaniel Witherell. They want to establish a closer relationship with the Commission in terms of partnering on projects. They have been brought into the Caregivers Circle and will provide a physical therapist and an occupational therapist to speak on elderly safety issues. The Police Department will provide speakers on financial exploitation of seniors and safety issues for seniors. Lori, Laurette and Jim Dougherty met with the BET Law Committee last week to review the proposed resolution to allow the Friends of the Senior Center to donate funds for senior center use. The committee was enthusiastic about the Friends efforts and are finalizing language of the resolution. The Spring session of Super Noggin will start the week of April 4. There will be four classes, one at Parsonage Cottage for its residents, one at Hill House for its residents, and two public classes, one at the Library and one at the Senior Center. It was suggested and agreed that participant's payment for the course book should be payable to the Friends and the payment to the book company should be made by the Friends rather than running the funds through the GREATS account. The Share the Fare policy has been finalized. A current Park pass will be considered valid proof of residency. A data base and the final tickets are being worked on. Lori met with Social Services to discuss programs for the elderly and how the Commission and the department can work more closely together. Lori had to make two protective services referrals last week. Plans are being explored to better utilize space on the lower level and to make the entrance area there more attractive and functional. A second my senior center terminal at the lower level entrance would eliminate the need for members to come to the main floor if they were only attending a program on the lower level. Lori hopes to use the robo-call system as a means of reminding members what they need in the event of a storm or emergency. Bell Choir - Lori is looking at the possibility of bell sponsorship as a means of funding the bells. Cost ranges from \$225 to \$650 per bell. Upcoming dates:

April 21: next Distinguished Lecture Series - Dr. Karl Pillemer - 30 Lessons For Living lecture at Cole Auditorium

May 11: Older Americans Month celebration at Town Hall

May 19: Dr. John Rowe lecture on Trends in Aging at Cole Auditorium

May 26: United Way Late Life Issues Program

October 6: Annual Health Expo


River House has been asked to submit a grant proposal, Lori is helping them with the application.

NEXT

MEETING: The next meeting of the Commission will be March 16, 2016.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


James B. Dougherty
Secretary