Commission on Aging  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015  
Greenwich Senior Center: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Attending: Patricia Burns, Chairman; Kate Brennan, Vice-Chair; Kip Burgweger; Lori Contadino, Director CoA; Helen Dixon; James Dougherty; Laurette Helmrich, Senior Center Administrator; Steven Katz; George O’Loughlin, DSS

Guests: Christine Edwards, RTM District 8, Jr. League; Nick Edwards, RTM District 8

Approval of January 21 Minutes: Approved.

Chairman’s Report:  
Old Business: Patricia Burns discussed the real need for a multipurpose Senior Center. Steve Katz questioned at what time will the CoA make a decision and focus on one direction – either renovating the current facility or securing a parcel for the construction of a new Senior Center facility. Patricia explained that the search will continue for a location that would be viable but in the meantime the focus will be on improving the current spaces and attracting more seniors with innovative and robust programing. This dual focus is essential. We cannot attract and retain members to come to a tired and crumbling facility. All changes made to the current facility enhance the building whether or not we ultimately move to another location. The feasibility of moving the kitchen to the lower level (Lion’s Den) and turning the lounges into the dining area and the current dining room into an activity area is being researched. A more “café” style atmosphere is under consideration with seating that will attract more visitors. The elevator also continues to need attention.

Discussion is ongoing with the Greenwich Hospital about access to and use of monies held in account from the Senior Heath Fair.

Reports:  
a. Senior Center Administrator’s Report: The TAG contract is coming up for review. At the moment approximately 10-15 people come on a daily basis through TAG. Commission members questioned alternatives to TAG and Kate Brennan offered to check with the Boys and Girls Club and other entities. Laurette mentioned that we are interested in incorporating staggered pick-ups into the new TAG agreement.

b. Social Services: The Social Worker assigned to us can use the new conference room to see clients on Thursday mornings or use the office Lori Contadino just vacated on the ground floor.


d. Multipurpose Senior Center: Ongoing.

e. Director’s Report: Lori Contadino reported that applications for Senior Property Tax Relief are available and must be filed with the Assessor’s Office.
February 1 through May 15. The Assessor’s Office can provide assistance if necessary.

The 2015 Directory of Aging and Disability Services is now available. The online version has also been amended to match the printed version. Hundreds of books are in the process of being distributed to local agencies, organizations and interested individuals.

The April Senior Providers Network meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at Waveny LifeCare Network in New Canaan, CT.

Lori reported that she continues to work with the internal audit committee to address all issues related to Share-the-Fare Taxi program. Resident contributions will be deposited into a Liability Account and once a month Greenwich Taxi will be paid. Plans are in the works for a new booklet of tickets and dollar amounts (no more than $100 a month per individual unless there are extenuating circumstances). Budgeting remains a challenge as there is a distinct difference between tickets sold and tickets redeemed. Lori, Patricia and Steve will be meeting with the new Senior Management Analyst to address administration of the program and budget forecasting.

The Super Noggin program will be launched in April at the Senior Center and at the Library. Hill House is applying for a grant to underwrite the costs of bringing Super Noggin to their location.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen Dixon
Secretary