

COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2019

Attending: Patricia Burns, Presiding; Steve Katz; Francis Burgweger; Anne Marie Hynes
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 16, 2019 meeting were distributed. There was no discussion about the content. Motion to approve was tabled until Mr. Burweger arrived. At that point, a Motion was made to approve the Minutes. Seconded and carried with one abstention by K. Burgweger.

Senior Center

Director's

Report: L. Helmrich reported on a discussion with the Junior League concerning a potential program on Technology to be offered in the 2nd half of April or the beginning of May. Information on the contents of the program will be available at a later date. The work on the Tech Lounge is continuing and the removal of asbestos will be complete by mid-March. The space has been basically gutted and the new layout will have seminar tables and seating for 16, which can be reconfigured as needs dictate.

In answer to a question posed by S. Katz, we discussed the value of the Tech space which initially will be used as a drop-in center for seniors who want/need access. There is a recognition that the usage of the Lounge will be evolutionary as needs arise and that it will vary depending on the age and abilities of the seniors involved. There was a question as to whether we could partner with Apple or another tech company to expand the capabilities of the Lounge. It appears that this is one of many areas to investigate in utilizing the new Tech space to its maximum potential.

Commission

Director's

Report: L. Contadino reported that much effort has been expended in the past month on the Senior Tax Credit program which is required to be updated this year. She again acknowledged K. Burgweger's efforts to shepherd the revised plan through the town approval process. COA committee members will help in this process.

She also reported on some upcoming events that involve the COA. On February 21 the Greenwich Bar Association has invited her to give an overview of the commission and its activities to their monthly luncheon.

On May 3rd, Bonnie Levinson will present a workshop on "Greenwich Lives Well Lived" which includes a broad perspective of town residents discussing their experiences.

On May 31, we are again coordinating the Late Life Conference whose theme is "Paving the Path from Loneliness to Engagement". Ruth Finkelstein is the keynote speaker and the cost is \$100, all-inclusive. S. Katz will be one of the presenters addressing technology issues.

The goal has been to have six events for our sponsors to reach the town seniors. Three of these have required a financial commitment from the sponsors and the other three have been bonus opportunities for them.

On April 3rd, the YWCA is offering an Elder Abuse Forum for health professionals. We will inquire of Meredith Gold whether this can be taped for potential future use.

Age Friendly
Greenwich:

L. Contadino will be presenting a Community Conversation on Age-Friendly Greenwich along with S. Katz and Bill Armbuster of AARP. This will be held at the Bruce Museum on March 13th at 6:30 PM. This will have free admission and continues the COA goal to utilize different forums to reach a wide range of Greenwich citizens. Bill Armbuster and Lee Hirsch will also be involved in an Advisory Board meeting on the previous day, March 12th, to discuss other aspects of Age-Friendly Greenwich.

Next

Meeting: The next Commission meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m. following a motion by S. Katz, seconded by P. Burns.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Hynes
Recording Secretary (substitute)