COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
MARCH 16, 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: Nick Edwards, DSS

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

Minutes:
Minutes of the February 17, 2016 were distributed. The Minutes were approved by Motion duly made, seconded and carried.

Old Business:
To follow up on a question raised at the last meeting regarding the Housing Authority and its efforts to help keep older adults living in place, it was reported that they are involved in the United Way’s needs assessment, they have a contract with social services to work with McKinney Terrace residents and have a contract with the Family Center.

Transportation:
The current TAG contract has been working well. Under the contract we must give TAG notice of our intent to renew by the end of March. A Motion was made to renew the contract and seconded. After discussion the Motion was approved with one abstention (C. Brennan). C. Burns continues to work on getting our members signed up for Easy Access. At present we have 39 members who use TAG. Of those 34 will qualify for Easy Access. Future funding of the program under the State budget could be an issue.

Health Fair Funds:
The Health Fair funds held by Greenwich Hospital have finally been turned over to be held in a designated account by the Friends of the Greenwich Senior Center. The sum of $17,897.16 was received.

Nominating Committee:
Wendy Blumenthal and Kip Burgweger presented the following slate of Officers to be voted on at the April Meeting:
Chair: Patricia Burns
Vice-Chair: Steve Katz
Secretary: James Dougherty

Needs Assessment:
W. Blumenthal reported that the following were areas of focus in the Assessment:
Substance Abuse;
Financial and Medical needs of an aging population;
The need for a continuing care community;
Youth and Education;
Transportation and State initiatives for trains and I-95;
Housing including the Hill House expansion (it was mentioned that the Town Planner is drafting continuing care facility regulations).

Renovation: P. Burns reported that the plans for the proposed handicapped accessible ramp for the front entrance have been approved and are going out to bid. It is hoped that work will start in June. There has been demolition work on the lower level to create useable areas including a waiting area for TAG riders, and activity area and office space for use by health care workers and social service workers. A second My Senior Center card swipe terminal is also planned. A tour of the area was held after the meeting.

Senior Tax Relief: Loris did a radio spot on the topic and the committee will meet after the April Commission meeting.

Senior Center Director's Report: L. Helmrich reported that $6,500.00 of the approximately $7,500.00 needed for the Bell Choir has been raised. A buzzer system will be installed on the office door both to protect it from banging the pillar and to limit open access to the offices. The annual St. Patrick’s party will be held on March 17 and we are gearing up for the start of the Spring Super Noggin session. There will be four Super Noggin sites: Parsonage Cottage, Hill House, Greenwich Library, Senior Center.

Director’s Report: L. Contadino reported that the Share the Fare registration process is underway and going smoothly. The new tickets will be ready by July 1. Lori reported on the following upcoming events:
April 21: next Distinguished Lecture Series - Dr. Karl Pillemer - Living and Loving - Advise From the Oldest and Wisest Americans - lecture at Cole Auditorium at 7 p.m.
May 11: Older Americans Month lecture by Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis - Choosing Hope: The Power of Choice at the Cole Auditorium 1 p.m. (The Friends of the Greenwich Senior Center will pay the speakers reduced fee of $200.00)
May 19: Dr. John Rowe lecture on The Changing Landscape of Aging at the Cole Auditorium
Lori distributed copies of The Community Advisory Committee’s FY 2016 First Quarter Activities Report as well as the Community Health Needs Assessment 2015 Initial Results Report.
NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Commission will be April 20, 2016.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty
Secretary