COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
APRIL 20, 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: C. Pica, GREATS

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting were distributed. With a correction to a typo in Lori's name under Senior Tax Relief, the Minutes were approved by Motion duly made, seconded and carried.

Transportation:

C. Burns met with a representative from Norwalk Transit on the Easy Access Program. Carol, Laurette and Lori have been approved to fill in the Easy Access applications for our members and to do the assessment for eligibility. The per ride cost of Easy Access is $2.40. The non Easy Access rate works out to between $18 and $20 per ride. Switching our members to the Easy Access rate will result in significant savings.

We have met with TAG and asked for statistics for the past year and an explanation of how Dial a Ride works. The June 1 SPN meeting at River House will include a forum on transportation. A letter has been sent to TAG advising that we will exercise the option to renew the contract for one year. We have not received TAG's confirmation yet. This summer negotiations will begin with TAG for the next contract.

A suggestion was made that we explore alternative transportation such as Uber and Lyft. We would need to make sure they carry adequate insurance.

It appears that we may not need to go as far as thought on security in the printing of the Share the Fare vouchers. The printing is on hold until we know for sure.

This could result in savings of about $6,000.00

Renovation: The lower level has been gutted. Two walls that were thought to be load bearing are not. The center will need to be closed for two days while work is done in the server room. This work will put the phone and computer system out of order for those days.

Senior Center Director's Report: L. Helmrich reported that the Arts Council had a theft. Security cameras got pictures of the thief. The buzzer system has been installed on the office door. You can only enter with the appropriate swipe card or by being buzzed in.
Social Services: It was reported that the annual meeting was held and that Barbara Nolan will continue as Chair.

Nathaniel Witherell: It was reported that Nathaniel Witherell is still in the process of filling its Board.

Director's Report: L. Contadino reported that the next Distinguished Lecture Series - Dr. Karl Pillemer - Living and Loving - Advise From the Oldest and Wisest Americans - will be tomorrow night, April 21 at the Cole Auditorium at 7 p.m.

A Department brochure has been developed and printed and was distributed. It was all done in house at no cost. It will be further developed and updated as needed.

A discussion was had on terminology to use. Positive terms rather than terms with negative connotation like “senior” should be used in our communications. The focus should be on ability rather than age. Greenwich should be made more dementia and older adults friendly.

The new session of Super Noggin is underway with new facilitators in place.

GREATS: C. Pica announced that she planned to propose that GREATS make a significant donation to the Friends of the Greenwich Senior Center but was not sure how the proposal would be received.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Commission will be May 18, 2016.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty
Secretary