

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 V.2
Revised October 24, 2017**

Attending: Commissioners: Steven Katz, Presiding; Francis (Kip) Burgweger; Carol Burns; Ann Marie Hynes; Ellen Wolfson.
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich.
Guest: Christine Edwards

Unable to Attend: Patricia Burns, James Dougherty

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. A quorum was present.

Minutes: The minutes for the July 19, 2017 meeting were distributed and approved unanimously by all present.

Introduction: Lori Contadino reported that the new Program Specialist will be Lynn Mason.

Chairman's Report: Steven Katz delivered the Chairman's report. We have some programs that will carry over from last year and some programs that are new for this year. The Commission has received permission to rename the Senior Center "299 On The Ave."

The Strategic Plan will be updated. Ann Marie Hynes will work with Steve on the update. The update will reflect the projects that the Commission is presently engaged in, *e.g.*, Age Friendly Greenwich.

The Age Friendly Greenwich project requires an Advisory Board. We are currently searching for members of the Board. The Town Ethics Board has opined that members of the Advisory Board will be officers of the Town. As officers, the members of the Board will be subject to the Town's Conflicts of Interest Policies which will require members to disclose and address conflicts and meet other standards of Town officers. Commissioners should send any suggestions for members to Lori Contadino by next Monday. Steve and Lori have already come up with three names of potential Advisory Board members. Three Commissioners can meet without public notice, but a meeting of four or more members is a meeting requiring public notice.

Regarding work on the survey, the base is from AARP. We need Board members to help tweak the survey. Carol Burns volunteered to help on this matter.

It was confirmed that Commissioners and other Town officers need not file the ethics disclosure form if there are no transactions constituting a conflict to be disclosed.

Senior Center Administrator's Report: Laurette Helmrich delivered this report. We are close to getting Certificates of Occupancy on the downstairs art studio and the access ramp. Laurette and Lori are going to purchase the chairs for the studio. We will be opening the studio next

month. Following the opening, there will be some evening programs. The ramp is only for use by the Senior Center.

The next phase of construction will be the men's and ladies' rooms in the basement. That construction will dislodge lead and asbestos. That space was formerly a jail. We will probably not finish the bathrooms until sometime next Fiscal Year. That work will be followed by the Lion's Den and the new kitchen.

Having Lynn Mason as Program Specialist is very exciting. She has musical talents that will benefit us all.

Nathaniel Witherell: Ellen Wolfson reported on Nathaniel Witherell. Dr. Walsh is starting a pulmonary service. The State Department of Health conducted an inspection for four days and has not yet released the findings. There will be renovations to the hygiene rooms. The Nathaniel Witherell at Home contract was awarded to Sterling Care.

Post care has been extended 90 days. Finances are in good shape. They are using very professional marketing. In October, they will be doing a walk fund raiser. They are also receiving the first harvest from the garden.

Carol reported that she has a scheduling conflict and cannot continue to act as liaison with the Department of Human Services. She did not attend the last meeting.

Transportation: The Southwest Connecticut Agency on Aging ("SWCAA") has identified a need for transportation forum of senior providers. It is trying to identify transportation gaps and leverage SWCAA strength to improve service. The entire region is addressing how Uber might improve its service, The Uber corporate hierarchy has been rejecting our requests. Lyft is not operating in Greenwich.

TAG did not get Easy Access for Norwalk Transit although it had had that service in prior years. Norwalk Transit completely rejuvenated Easy Access program for our area. TAG was extremely expensive compared to competitors. Easy Access is for individuals with disability located within one-half mile of the bus routes in Greenwich. This is a major financial blow to TAG. It is not sure how to make up the deficit. The Senior Center will find alternatives if TAG goes out of business. Easy Access is now working well for River House.

The Commission is exploring selling Easy Access tickets. Norwalk Transit would give us a list of eligible riders who could buy from the Commission. We now sell Share the Fare tickers.

Commission on Aging Director's Report: Lori delivered this report. She is helping a man whose wife died, and he is in very difficult financial trouble. He could be referred to the Town's Department of Human Services, Neighbor to Neighbor or the Senior Center.

Medicare D training is under way. Ann Marie stated that she would like to join the program.

The Health & Wellness Expo is scheduled for October 5. Sponsors will be the only exhibitors. There will be a capacity crowd of 250 for lunch. There will also be a trivia contest for lunch. Each table will constitute a team, and there will be prizes. This game is strictly for brain

boosting. We received revenues of \$30,500 and have met our goal. It will be good for commissioners to stop by. It is an evolving event, and we need to develop additional ideas and events. Also, commissioners are needed to help serve lunch after the trivia event.

Christine Edwards departed.

The logo colors for the Health and Wellness Expo are blue from Greenwich Hospital and green from Greenwich.

Lori presented Age Friendly Greenwich to the Greenwich United Way Planning Council yesterday. She handed out a packet of the materials that she had presented to the Planning Council. Lori made her presentation with Donna Spellman from River House and Dr. Donna Phanums, a geriatrician from Greenwich Hospital. The Planning Council asked the Commission to work on the mid-term updating of the Needs Assessment.

Budget season is here. The budget kick-off meeting will be next week when budget guidelines will be presented. The budget is now due in October although it was formerly due in November. The Operations Plan has been drafted by Lori and has been reviewed by Patricia Burns and Steve and emailed to commissioners for vote before Lori leaves for Italy in October.

On November 9, in the Cole Auditorium at 7:00 PM there will be a Distinguished Lecture on Livable Communities Age Friendly Greenwich. A representative from AARP will be coming up from Washington DC. He is our advisor from AARP. He will want to meet with the Commissioners and Town officials as well as walk around the Town. He will be here November 8, 9 and 10. He needs to get different peoples' perspectives on Greenwich. He will be here the afternoon of November 8 and all day November 9 and part of November 10. He may meet with John Toner, Peter Tesei and possibly Drew Marzullo.

Next

Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission will be held on October 18, 2017.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 9:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis J. Burgweger, Jr.

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Acting Secretary