

COMMISSION ON AGING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 20, 2021

- Attending: Steven Katz, Presiding; Kip Burgweger; Carol Burns; James Dougherty; Ann Marie Hynes; Amy Jurkowitz; Ellen Wolfson  
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich
- Call To  
Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. The meeting was held by Zoom.
- Minutes: Minutes of the September, 2021 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The Chair asked if there were any corrections. With no corrections mentioned, the Chair noted the Minutes as accepted.
- Chair's  
Report: S. Katz reported that options for the new kitchen/dining facility and food provider are being explored and that meetings with potential consultants have been held. Amy Jurkowitz reported that we should take advantage of the natural elements of the space to create a space that will be appealing to all. Steve reported that the budget process is on track and will be ready for presentation to the Commission at the November meeting.
- Dept. Of  
Human  
Services: E. Wolfson reported that the Department had an instagram training session for members to increase their individual presence in the community. Ongoing programs were discussed. They discussed getting a logo through a student contest. Liberation Program gave a presentation on its Narcan training program. They have funds available to hire a consultant for strategic planning. They will be distributing about \$9,000 to community partners.
- Nathaniel  
Witherell: E. Wolfson reported that approximately 98% of staff are now vaccinated. Flue shots are being given to residents. They are ahead of budget expectations.
- SWCCA: A.M. Hynes reported that Lori Contadino will be speaking at the next SWCCA meeting. The 2022 budget was distributed. They are developing a vaccine protocol for staff.
- Friends of  
The Senior  
Center: No Report.
- Senior  
Center: L. Helmrich reported:  
Drive Thru Lunches  
Taste of the Town continues to be successful  
Re Open  
Daily programs continue in the Center with the addition of card playing, tech

classes and Garden Center workshops  
Response has been very positive  
Outdoor programs will continue as weather permits

#### New Kitchen

We have met consulting group to discuss new kitchen and RFP, discussions ongoing

#### Commission

##### Directors

Report: L. Contadino reported

Drive-Thru/Drop-Off Durable Medical Equipment Drive was held on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Commission on Aging collaborated with Wheel it Forward for an amazingly successful drive-thru/drop off DME event. In a four-hour period we received: 6 commodes, 26 walkers, 8 canes, 9 shower seats, 10 rollators, 5 raised toilet seats, 43 bags of disposable briefs, 25 pairs of crutches, 6 wheelchairs (4 transport chairs), 2 knee scooters, 7 leg braces, 2 cpap machines, 2 leg exercisers. Since the event, several residents have telephoned desiring to donate hospital beds and an assortment of "other" medical equipment. All were referred to Wheel It Forward who in turn, dispatched their volunteers to pick up the equipment. On an ongoing basis, Holly Hill transfer station has been established as the location to drop off gently used medical equipment. Wheel It Forward will be contacted when there are items to be picked up.

##### Medicare D Open Enrollment:

Counselors are off to a strong start assisting residents with Medicare D Open Enrollment. Counseling is provided virtually with some exceptions: residents with language barriers, hearing impairments or extremely complex regimens may be scheduled for a face-to-face encounter. Our team saw over 20 clients in one day.

##### SWCAA Annual Meeting:

The collaboration between Greenwich Country Day School and the Greenwich Commission on Aging in the creation of TechCONNECT will be highlighted as a regional best practice tomorrow at SWCAA's Annual Meeting. Immediately following the keynote address on the benefits of technology to older adults, Executive Director, Marie Allen will interview Jen Donnalley and I about our program. A follow-up meeting will be held at a later date for all interested in learning the specifics of our program with the intent to replicate the model we created or to use it as a springboard for collaborating with non-traditional partners and closing the digital divide that exists among older adults.

##### FY22-23 Budget

Members of the Health & Human Services Committee of the RTM (Lauren O'Keefe and Doreen Pearson) will be working with us in developing the FY22-23 budget. Lauren O'Keefe has worked with us for the past 4-5 years. This continuity and the depth of understanding as it relates to Departmental challenges is extremely valuable. A worksheet of budget questions given to us by Lauren and Doreen actually kicks-off the process. A meeting of the COA Budget Committee will be held on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Additionally, Steve, Laurette and I will be meeting with Ben Branyan, Town Administrator regarding the budget process on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

##### Dementia Friends

A special Dementia Friends session was facilitated by Donna Spellman and I for the River House

Board of Directors and their Advisory Board on Thursday, October 14th at 4:00 p.m. Over 15 individuals attended the workshop and found the content and conversation to be extremely worthwhile. A Dementia Friends session will be scheduled for the Commission on Aging Board, Friends of the Greenwich Senior Center Board and Age and Dementia Friendly Advisory Board and Task Group members in the near future.

#### Collaboration with Department of Human Services

Commissioner of Human Services, Demetria Nelson and I discussed opportunities for expanded collaboration and are considering a large-scale outreach initiative to educate the community about programs and services and to identify individuals in need of assistance.

An Executive Session for contractual and personnel issues was requested.

Executive Session: The Chair took the meeting into Executive Session beginning at 9:13 and ending at 9:38.

Age Friendly: Some of the task groups still need to meet. The Dementia Friendly task group is on target. The year 2 report needs to be worked on in January and February.

#### COVID

Reopening: Gradual reopening continues. The demolition/renovation works limits available space in the center. It still needs to be decided when we will fully reopen and under what restrictions.

Renovation: We are close to having final plans. The need to include the cost of re-branding and marketing in the new budget was noted.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission will be at 8:30 on November 17, 2021

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty  
Secretary