

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission
March 28, 2014
10:00 am
Long Hill Conference Room

The Senior Citizen Commission of the Town of Trumbull held a scheduled meeting on March 24, 2014 in the Long Hill conference Room in the Trumbull Town Hall.

Members Present: Chairperson Rachel Yahwak; Vice Chairperson Roberta Bellows; Secretary Helen Weinstein; Joan Mehlhorn, Amy DeZenko, Dee Chiota; Alternate Dorothy Merritt.

Also present: Jean Ferreira, Senior Center Director, Rita Grossi

Absent: Ron Filigno

This is a brief summary of the meeting.

A quorum being present, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Yahwak expressed condolences to Dorothy Merritt on the loss of her sister. She also noted that Helen Weinstein is resigning as she is moving to Bridgeport.

Past Minutes

Mrs. Yahwak presented revised minutes from the January 24, 2014. Motion was made by Mrs. Chiota to approve the minutes of January 24, 2014 as revised. Seconded by Mrs. Mehlhorn and approved unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Mrs. Yahwak noted the commission will need to appoint a new secretary with the resignation of Ms. Weinstein. Mrs. Chiota agreed to take the position. Motion was made by Mrs. DeZenko to nominate Dee Chiota for Corresponding Secretary. Seconded by Mrs. Mehlhorn and approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Mrs. Yahwak presented a thank you card received from Mrs. Ferreira after her surgery.

Mrs. Yahwak thanked Mrs. Mehlhorn and Ron Foligno and his wife for their help at the volunteer lunch. It was a very nice affair.

Discussion was held regarding the Finance Board and the Senior Commission. Mrs. Yahwak noted the Board deducted \$1,800.00 for postage for the newsletter. The Board felt that the ads in the newsletter would pay for the postage but they really pay for several activities at the Senior Center. Discussion was held regarding how to fund various activities and whether the town would be willing to pay for the

activities if requested. The budget has moved on to the Town Council for approval so the opportunity to request the reinstatement of these funds has passed. Unfortunately, Commission members were unable to attend the budget hearings due to illness. Ms. Grossi noted that other centers have a ways and means committee to solicit funding from various establishments. This is currently being done for the ads in the newsletter. Mrs. Ferreira suggested that the chairman arrange a meeting with the Board of Finance to discuss the matter. Mrs. DeZenko stated that because of the small amount of money and the extenuating circumstances, a letter to Carl Massaro and Elaine Hammers should be sent explaining the situation and ask them to revisit the Senior Commission budget and put back the \$1,800.00. Mrs. Bellows stated in the letter we should not only ask the Board to reconsider and re-appropriate the money, we should also give reasons to substantiate the request. Mrs. Bellows will work with Mrs. DeZenko on this letter.

Discussion was held regarding the comment made by Mrs. Hammers about the Senior Center charging seniors who live in the town \$5.00 as dues to go to the Senior Center. Mrs. Hammers was going to send a letter to the Commission regarding this but has not. It was noted that surveys were conducted with the seniors and they had no problem paying \$5.00, out-of-town seniors paying \$20.00 and no charge for classes. The Commission members felt this topic was closed.

Mrs. Yahwak introduced Senator Anthony Musto and State Representative David Rutigliano who spoke to the Commission regarding the kitchen at the Senior Center. Senator Musto noted they are trying to get money for the kitchen and have asked for \$150,000. This request will be sent to the Office of Policy and Management at the state for review. It is hoped that this money will allow the kitchen to be up to code. Both requested that letters of support be sent to them ASAP to accompany this application. Representative Rutigliano noted the technology fair will be held at the Senior Center on May 23rd starting at 11:00 am. Mrs. Ferreira will conduct a letter writing day on April 1 from 10:30 to noon in support of the funding for the kitchen.

Mrs. Yahwak noted she received an RFP for the kitchen vendor from Robert Chimini. Only one vendor applied. Mrs. DeZenko noted we needed to consider this as it is a bridge between now and when the new kitchen is installed. Menus can be selected for the catering. A copy of the information will be sent to the commissioners for review so a decision can be made at the next meeting. Menus will be reviewed to see what is appropriate.

Director's Report

Jean Ferreira reported the following:

1. May is Senior Citizen Month
2. May 2 – Tea Party and proclamation of Senior Citizen Month. She is currently working with food vendors. Other members are working on various parts. Cost \$250.00.
3. Health Fair will be scheduled for the third week in June. She needs to set up some committees to help.
4. May 16 – Card Party. Cost \$200.00.

5. May 23 – The AT&T workshop – “Tools for Everyday Living”. Hartford is sending her a flyer to post. She has vendors for refreshments. Cost \$100.00.
6. May 30 – Senior Citizen Month Bingo. She noted bids will be required for vendors. Cost \$517 for 100 people.

It was cost approximately \$1,592 for these events, if we do not get any money from the community.

Mrs. Yahwak requested support from the commissioners to meet during the month of April to prepare these events. A meeting was scheduled for April 8 at 10 am at the Senior Center.

The Health Fair was discussed. The Commission felt this should be moved to the fall. Money will not be appropriated at this time for the fair. The Health Fair was tabled until the fall.

Motion was made by Mrs. Mehlhorn to empower Mrs. Fereira to spend up to \$250.00 for the Tea Party. Seconded by Mrs. Weinstein and approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Mrs. DeZenzo to appropriate \$200.00 for the Card Party. Seconded by Mrs. Yahwak and approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Mrs. Bellows to appropriate \$100.00 for the AT&T Technology Workshop on May 23rd. Seconded by Mrs. DeZenzo and approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Mrs. Yahwak to appropriate \$517 for the food for the Senior Citizen Bingo and \$375 for prizes totaling \$892. Seconded by Mrs. Mehlhorn and approved unanimously.

Old Business

1. Kitchen Refrigerator – there is one in the snack bar that can be used by all the seniors to put their food in. It will be the responsibility of the Senior Center staff to clean the refrigerator. It was suggested that a sign be placed on the front noting that the refrigerator will be cleaned every Friday and any food remaining at that time will be disposed of.
2. New Programs – it was noted there was not much interest in quilting or book club. Container gardening was discussed as a demonstration/informational session where members could come and learn how to make their own. It was suggested that the Garden Club, garden centers and the VoAg be contacted to see if they might be interested in presenting this type of program.

New Business

1. Mrs. Fereira noted a new driver has been hired but it will take approximately 16 weeks to get him on board due to testing. Eric Sereno will be coming back to fill in until the driver has been cleared.
2. Movies were discussed. April 11 is “Because I Said So”; April 25 is Bingo; April 17 is the Birthday Party; April 9 is AARP Tax help.
3. Next meeting will be on April 25, 2014.

4. Mrs. Grossi suggested an ugly sweater contest should be held. This would be good around Christmas.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Weinstein, seconded by Mrs. Chiota, to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 am. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk