

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission – January 22, 2016

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission
January 22, 2016
10:00 am
Long Hill Conference Room

The Senior Citizen Commission of the Town of Trumbull held a scheduled meeting on January 22, 2016 in the Long Hill Conference Room of the Trumbull Town Hall.

Members Present: Chairperson, Rachel Yahwak; Vice Chairperson, Ron Foligno; Commissioners Roberta Bellows, Mary Moran, Dorothy Merritt, Dee Chiota, Amy DeZenzo, Maureen Gordon, Gail D’Elia and Evelyn Wiezner

Also present: Senior Center Director, Jean Ferreira

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Mrs. Yahwak followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Mrs. Yahwak introduced Mary Moran as a full member of the commission. She reminded everyone to contact her if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Plaque Presentation

A presentation was made by Ms. Merritt to Joyce Saltes in memory of Ann Notaro who was a very active volunteer at the Senior Center. She noted Ann was always there to help and was involved in many center activities. She was a good friend and volunteer. Ann’s name was placed on the Memorial Plaque at the Senior Center.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Mrs. Yahwak to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 10:03 am. Seconded by Mrs. Chiota and approved unanimously. Members present at the Executive Session included Rachel Yahwak, Ron Foligno, Roberta Bellows, Mary Moran, Dorothy Merritt, Dee Chiota, Amy DeZenzo, Maureen Gordon, Gail D’Elia and Evelyn Wiezner. Motion was made by Mrs. Moran to exit the Executive Session at 10:07 am. Seconded by Amy DeZenzo and approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Mr. D’Aquila questioned if there was a vote taken to reduce the membership age to 55. Mrs. Yahwak noted a vote was taken at a previous meeting.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mrs. D’Elia to approve the minutes of December 18, 2016 as written. Seconded by Mrs. Wiezner and approved unanimously.

Secretary’s Report

Mrs. Chiota read a letter from the Center for Family Justice regarding the donation made to them. The Center thanked the Commission for their commitment and support.

Chairman's Report

1. Bylaws Update – Mrs. Bellows noted they were unable to scan and redo the individual page with the age change. Mrs. Yahwak will ask the First Selectman's office if they are able to make this update. This change has been publicized in the newsletter and on TV. Suggestion was made to have a tea to include those individuals who may be interested in joining the Senior Center with the age change. After discussion, it was agreed to host an open house on a Sunday after church sometime in the near future. Senior Citizen Month is May but it was felt that was too long to wait.
2. Budget Meeting – Mrs. Yahwak and Mr. Foligno met with the First Selectman regarding the budget. Mr. Foligno expressed a concern regarding the use of the Special Agency Account funds to offset the budget. The Board of Finance is proposing a new system for using the funds in these accounts. Ms. Ferreira felt the Board of Finance needs to understand that she must have the approval of the Senior Commission before any funds from that account can be used. Mrs. DeZenzo noted the funds in this account have accumulated over several years and come from membership dues, ad money and donations. This account is not spent down every year. Further discussion was held regarding this account and the proposed change. It was agreed by the Commission that a detailed list of all expenditures from the Special Agency Account would be prepared in advance of the February 23 meeting with the Board of Finance. At that time, the Board will be requesting detailed information regarding the activity in this account. It was noted the Board of Finance controls the money spent in the town. However, the Commission has a high code of ethics when deciding what is best for the seniors and their goal is to provide for all seniors in the town. After discussion, it was agreed to move the next meeting of the Senior Commission to Friday, February 19, 2016 at 10:00 am so that information can be reviewed prior to the Board of Finance meeting on February 23.
3. Kitchen Update – Mrs. Arnow entered the meeting and gave an update on the kitchen. She presented a newly revised draft of the kitchen layout for the Commission to review. There was a walk through in December and a decision was made regarding the new refrigerator and some of the equipment currently installed in the kitchen. Some equipment may not be replaced immediately, i.e. the hood, but money would be reserved for its replacement in the future. Reason behind this was the concern for unforeseen problems such as asbestos. Mrs. Arnow discussed the serving of food through a caterer or the Board of Education. She noted the revised drawings will be used for the RFP which is needed to get the funding from the state. Bid has not gone out but it has been written by the architect from Antonozzi. All decisions have been made with approval of the Health Department. It was noted that having the shelter at the Center is helping the kitchen project. Funding was discussed. Question was raised as to whether there was state funding for emergency purposes that could be tapped because of the shelter to move the project forward quicker. Mrs. Arnow reviewed the funding for the project and noted the town does not feel the project will be outside the funding available. Bid release should be within the next two weeks.
4. Special Agency Accounts – Mrs. Arnow discussed the use of Special Agency Account funds and budget preparation. She noted the Town Auditor presented a report to the Board of Finance on the Special Agency Accounts held by town departments. She noted the intent is not to take the funds away but to use some of the funds to reduce the budget directly. The Board of Finance will be asking for a detailed accounting of the use of the funds to make any determination regarding the individual budget requests.
5. Center Activities –
 - a. Lunch and a Movie – February 12
 - b. Birthday Party – February 19

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- c. Bingo – February 26
 - d. Valentine Craft – February 11
 - e. Strawberry Dipping – February 8
6. Buses – Status of the buses was discussed. Ms. Ferreira noted they are hiring one bus driver which will bring the total to three. She noted she is getting more seniors requesting rides. Suggestion was made to charge a minimum amount to ride the bus. This may not be possible because of the grant money used. Some seniors could be charged that use the senior buses for local trips but those that use the GBTA buses cannot be charged. Transportation to various locations, including the VA, was discussed and Ms. Ferreira noted that some trips take a longer time to complete because of the distance covered. Mrs. Yahwak felt a sub-committee should be appointed to meet with Mr. Herbst to discuss this subject and see how he would like to proceed. The committee could use the study previously conducted by Ms. Ferreira. It was felt the Commission needs a plan for the use of the buses. Mrs. Yahwak, Ms. Wiezner and Mrs. Bellows will work on this project. Transportation requests are made through the Senior Center or Mrs. Polansky at Stern Village. Individuals are not allowed to call themselves. Ms. Ferreira noted she receives a \$47,000 grant from GBTA and she is required to give \$17,000 to Stern Village. Mrs. Ferreira discussed the accountability of trips taken noting that statistics are counted differently by the state. This topic was tabled and will be discussed at the next meeting in February.

Director's Report

1. Ms. Ferreira noted she would like to introduce a six week course in bead making for jewelry. The cost of the class is being determined but she felt that \$300 would be appropriate as a total cost which includes supplies for approximately 15 participants. Mrs. DeZenzo felt it was great to introduce new programs such as this. Motion was made by Mrs. DeZenzo to consider having someone give a class in ceramics on the condition that the cost be between \$300-\$400 for six weeks. Mrs. Bellows noted this should be dependent on the amount of interest with a minimum of ten people. Seconded by Mrs. Bellows and approved unanimously.
2. Line Dancing – Ms. Ferreira noted the DJ showed up but the instructor was unavailable. She is looking for a Zumba instructor.

Old Business

1. Update on Senior Center/Community Center – Mrs. Yahwak noted the meeting the previous evening was cancelled so there is no update at this time.
2. Bus trips – Mrs. DeZenzo will provide a list of trips at the February meeting.

New Business

1. Mrs. Moran questioned if the Commission has an emergency plan for the seniors. Ms. Ferreira noted there is shelter information and robo calls are used in an emergency. Mrs. DeZenzo noted the Commission is an advisory body and does not get involved in the operations of the center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Bellows, seconded by Ms. Merritt to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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Barbara Crandall
Clerk

These minutes are considered a draft until approved at the next meeting of the Trumbull Senior Commission meeting.