

# Senior Citizen Commission – June 24, 2016

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Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission  
June 24, 2016  
10:00 am  
Long Hill Conference Room, Town Hall

The Senior Citizen Commission of the Town of Trumbull held a scheduled meeting on June 24, 2016 in the Long Hill Conference Room in the Trumbull Town Hall.

**Members Present:** Chairperson Ron Foligno; Commissioners Roberta Bellows, Dorothy Merritt, Dee Chiota, Amy DeZenko, Mary Moran, Evelyn Wiesner and Gail D’Elia

Also Present: Lynn Arnow, Chief of Staff and Michele Jakab, Director of Human Services

**Members Absent:** Maureen Gordon

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

## **Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **Past Minutes**

Motion was made by Mrs. Wiesner to approve the minutes of May 27, 2016 as written. Seconded by Mrs. Bellows and approved unanimously.

## **Secretary’s Report**

Mrs. Chiota noted she sent a thank you to Jeff Shapiro from Creative Culinary for the refreshments for Senior Proclamation Day. She also sent a thank you to Ashley Grace, Emily Areson and Lynn Arnow for their help in making a smooth transition.

## **Chairman’s Report**

Mr. Foligno noted that it was interesting to hear the comment that the Senior Center is a social lifeline for many seniors. This is reassuring.

## **Director’s Report**

Mr. Foligno welcomed Michele Jakab. Mrs. Jakab stated that she has been in her position for only eight days and has been doing a lot of listening. She distributed the July newsletter to the Commissioners for information and reviewed the July activities at the Senior Center.

Discussion was held regarding the senior picnic sponsored by the Rotary. It was noted that reservations are required and only 200 tickets are available each year. This picnic is open to all seniors in town not

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just members of the Senior Center. Mrs. Arnow felt it was important to know the price per person so that no one needs to be turned away.

### Old Business

1. Mrs. Arnow will be purchasing a new coffee pot for the Center.
2. There is a sign in the lobby for the Grab-N-Go with the new hours. Mrs. Jakab stated that sandwiches have sold out the last two weeks. We need to order more items with more wraps and less hard rolls. It was felt that more food items were sold because of the quality of the food. Mrs. Arnow stated that with this success, now we can look into the fresh fruits. Packaged desserts will be available on Monday.
3. Mrs. Arnow noted the majority of June is booked with volunteers. They currently have a pool of 5-6 people. We may need to engage additional volunteers if those currently assigned meet their 100 hours.
4. Lunch is averaging 23 people per day with an average of \$2.60 a meal in donations. It may be time to think about a ticket system for lunch so that the volunteers are not responsible for the cash. This can be implemented at any time. Mrs. Arnow thanked the Commission for their contribution in getting this started.
5. Mrs. Jakab noted the refrigerator has been delivered. This will be used for seniors who prefer to bring something to eat to the center and can also be used by the staff. Commercial food items cannot be stored in this refrigerator for sale. Mrs. Bellows suggested that a sign be placed on the front of the refrigerator stating that any food items left on Friday pm will be discarded.
6. Relocation of probate court was discussed. Mrs. Arnow noted nothing is final but all parties are interested in working together. The site noted will work well for all communities.
7. Discussion of class participation numbers was held. Mrs. Jakab will be researching class attendance and then an assessment will be done on all of the programs with possible expansion. Mrs. Moran requested the Director's opinion on the appropriate numbers for class participation.
8. Mrs. Arnow noted two applications have been received for bus drivers. They need to move forward quickly because of summer schedules.
9. No news about the 5310 grant.
10. Mrs. Arnow noted the Trumbull Community Center Study and Building Committee has interviewed candidates for the design of a new community center. A contract has not been awarded. There was a broad range of experience with one candidate doing 17 of these types of centers. Input is needed for a needs assessment from the community to make it a multi-functional building. Once the design is on board, the Senior Commission will be engaged in getting input. There will definitely be a portion of space that is designated as a senior area. Mrs. Chiota noted there is a misconception that the seniors will be using this space from 8-4 and then it would be a community center. She stated she is under the impression it would be open all day for everyone. That is the current concept being developed. Mrs. Arnow stated the Committee interviewed four out of twelve candidates. Resident awareness was discussed and it was noted that a flyer was placed in the tax bills that just went out in the mail. It is unknown if another survey will be conducted. Mrs. Arnow commented that the candidates stated as part of

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their assessment, they go out into the community for input. Mrs. DeZenko felt the public will have much less concern because of the fact that the firm chosen would go out into the community. Mrs. Arnow stated the design architect chosen will be able to design a building through a needs assessment even without a specific site. They will be able to determine what size the building should be on various sites. This building will still need to be a shelter for the town residents. Mrs. Wiesner commented regarding the lack of office space and if any consideration was being given to putting an annex to the building for that reason. Mrs. Arnow noted this is being considered but the first stage is to put together a program for the space which would include the nutrition program, food pantry, etc. Mr. Foligno asked if it would be a phased approach or done all at once. Mrs. Arnow commented this will be determined by the program developed for the size of the building. Ms. Merritt noted Social Services also needs to be included but will need privacy. This building will be used by the entire community not just one portion of the population. Mrs. DeZenko felt the Committee has come a long way and they are going to ask for input which is crucial for the success of the Committee. Cost of the project was briefly discussed.

### **New Business**

1. Mrs. DeZenko requested the Commission approve \$40.00 for refreshments for the July 6 reception for the new Director. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Chiota and approved unanimously.
2. Mrs. Jakab noted she would like to have a workshop in August on planting herbs at no cost to the participants. Discussion was held regarding programs and funding. Mrs. Jakab requested \$200 to be used for materials for the program. Mrs. DeZenko felt there should be a fee paid by the participants as they are taking something home with them. Discussion was held regarding class fees and participants. Mrs. DeZenko reiterated that it is not the decision of the Commission to determine classes or class size. It is the Director's judgement. The Commission is advisory only according to Connecticut State Statute. Motion was made by Mrs. Moran to approve using \$200 from the Special Agency Account for the new program the Director would like to initiate. Seconded by Mrs. DeZenko. Further discussion. Approved unanimously.
3. Mrs. DeZenko stated there is concern within the Commission that there is a concentration on members of the Senior Center for events when they should be reaching out to the other seniors in the community. This will be a discussion point in the future with the new Director.
4. Seniors have requested more informative talks, trips and educational seminars.
5. Facebook page was set up.
6. Membership Renewals – 211 seniors have renewed their membership. There are 716 members total. Mrs. Jakab would like to see a data base on the members to track information which could be done in Excel.
7. Discussion of rugs and chairs in the Center entry was held. Allan White will be contacted to shampoo the carpet and see if he has any chairs in storage.
8. Discussion was held about publicizing information in the newspaper for the Senior Center.
9. Next Meeting – August 26, 2016.

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### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Merritt, seconded by Mrs. DeZenko, to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk

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