

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission
MINUTES
March 26, 2010

Call To Order: The Chair, Mr. Monaco called the regular Senior Citizen Commission meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present: L. Ciocci, Amy Dezenzo, Fran Hanna, J. Mehlhorn, D. Tkacs, Helen Weinstein and Gary Raytor, (alternate).

Also Present: Gail Ondy Town Nurse, Councilman David Pia, (arrived at 10:27 a.m.).

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Mehlhorn moved and Ms. Tkacs seconded to approve the January 22, 2010 meeting minutes. Motion approved 7-0-1 (Abstention Dezenzo).

Chairman Report:

Mr. Monaco reported that the tables discussed at the last meeting were placed in the all the ladies rooms throughout the building, the women will have a place for their handbags now. The blinds have been installed, the DVD/VHS combination player has been purchased, the mats for the rear entrance have been purchased and the new dishwasher has been installed.

Mr. Monaco spoke favorably of the work that is done on the monthly newsletter by Ms. Ferreira, Richie and Donald Darling.

Mr. Monaco reported that approximately \$3,000 had been removed from the senior budget, but the BoF restored the \$3,000 verbally. Mr. Monaco is awaiting confirmation that the \$3,000 has been restored at the BoF level. Mr. Monaco asked the clerk if she had a copy of the budget, but she did not have one with her.

Ms. Dezenzo stated that she was under the impression that the commission set the budget, not the director. Ms. Weinstein stated that the commission works with the director and is consulted, but the director has the working knowledge of the budget. The budget was brought to the commission for their review.

The commission discussed at length the history of the senior center, how it has housed the youth department, social services and the arts commission. The sign reads the Center at Priscilla Place. Many of the commissioners present at this meeting disagreed with how the sign reads and thought that the Senior Center should be more prominent and regarded as more important. Mr. Monaco stated that town does not see the Senior Center as a priority. Ms. Mehlhorn spoke in favor of the Chair.

Secretary Report:

Ms. Ciocci announced and welcomed the new members of the Senior Citizen Commission:

Amy Dezenzo, Gary Raytor (alternate), Fran Hanna. Also recently reappointed to the commission were Helen Weinstein, Wanda Dick, and Joan Mehlhorn.

Mr. Monaco reported that the director will need assistance with the upcoming chicken dinner; the charge will be \$5.00 per person. The last dinner 100 people attended and they went over the budget by \$270.00. The director will be requesting a donation from the senior commission to assist in purchasing the food.

Treasure's Report:

Ms. Tkacs reported that the Beautification Account's balance as \$4,766.40 and the Senior Citizen Commission Special Agency account balance as \$14,543.84. In response to a question from Ms. Dezenzo, the commissioners explained the difference between the two accounts as, the Beautification account is where the donations are deposited; the senior citizen account is the senior commission funds that they have raised and have authority over. Ms. Hanna requested a hand out of the treasurer's report be distributed at every meeting.

Nurse's Report:

Ms. Ondy reported that there was a Diabetes Hypertension Seminar and was very successful. Senior week is currently being worked on by herself and the director. Ms. Hanna requested that the first selectman be contacted so that he can be made aware of what date the proclamation will be scheduled.

Mr. Monaco reported that the food pantry donations are going well; the pantry has been very well stocked. The café is very much an incentive for the seniors to attend the center. June 19th is the Senior Food Pantry Collection Day. Ms. Gillis of Social Services needs the assistance; she has been overwhelmed since the retirement of a person in her department.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. Monaco asked the clerk to read his resignation letter to the commission. As of March 27, 2010, Mr Ralph Monaco resigned as the Chairman of the Senior Citizen Commission.

There were several members of the public present. The Chair allowed the public to speak. Lucille Boraway: Spoke favorably of the center in the last two years; she has been attending the center for 8 years. Mr. and Mrs. Monaco have improved the senior center and work very hard on a daily basis especially Mr. Monaco works every day from 8:30 to 1:30 at the senior center. Ms. Boraway has tried to become a member of the senior commission for the past two weeks.

Sylvia: (did not state her last name) Stated she did not want Mr. Monaco to resign.

Audrey: (did not state her last name) Stated she had been attending the senior center for the past 8-10 years and has asked the new administration to be on the commission. Copies of the budget are available at the town hall. It would be her suggestion that the commission not accept Mr. Monaco's resignation, Mr. Monaco brings in revenue to the senior center, uses his own funds and coupons up front in order to save the center money, the director does reimburse him. He and the director work very hard and have done a good job.

Mr. Monaco stated that the café brings in approximately \$200.00 per month; usually it is approximately \$3-4,000 by the end of the year. The health inspector scored the café a 93 at the most recent inspection.

Ms. Hanna spoke against the director working in the café; pointing out that the position is split between social services and the senior center. Social Services is very understaffed at this time due to a resignation of an employee. Therefore the director should be working 4 hours at the senior center and 4 hours at social services.

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Senior Citizen Commission is on April 23, 2010, the fourth Friday of the month.

The commission discussed that if the public was going to speak at the meetings, Public Session should be added to the agenda.

Upon Motion made by Ms. Tkacs and seconded by Ms. Ciocci the Senior Citizen Commission adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Mastroni