

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission
MINUTES
April 23, 2010

Present: L. Ciocchi, A. Dezenzo, F. Hanna, J. Mehlhorn, D. Tkacs and H. Weinstein.

Due to the resignation of Chairman Ralph Monaco and the recent passing of Vice-Chairman Wanda Dick, Ms. Mehlhorn nominated Linda Ciocchi, as temporary Chairman of the Senior Citizen Commission, seconded by Ms. Weinstein.

Hearing no other nominations.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Call to Order: Temporary Chairman Linda Ciocchi called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Also Present: J. Ferreira, Senior Center Director, Mr. Dan Nelson, Chief of Staff, Judith Locke, Director of Nursing, and Gail Ondy Town Nurse.

By unanimous consent the Senior Citizen Commission added to the agenda *Election of Officers*.

Election of Officers:

Chairman

Upon motion made by Ms. Mehlhorn, seconded by Ms. Tkacs to nominate Ms. Ciocchi as Chairman of the Senior Citizen Commission. Hearing no other nominations.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman

Upon motion made by Ms. Ciocchi, seconded by Ms. Tkacs to nominate Ms. Mehlhorn as Vice-Chairman of the Senior Citizen Commission.

Ms. Dezenzo nominated Ms. Hanna as Vice-Chairman. Hearing no second, Ms. Dezenzo withdrew her motion.

Back to the main motion.

VOTE: Motion carried 5-0-1 (Abstention: Dezenzo)

Secretary

Upon motion made by Ms. Mehlhorn, seconded by Ms. Ciocchi to nominate Ms. Weinstein as Secretary of the Senior Citizen Commission. Hearing no other nominations.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair stated that she would open a public session for the first 10 minutes of the meeting. (Minutes of the public session – See Attached)

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Dezenzo moved, seconded by Ms. Tkacs to approve the March 26, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted. VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Ms. Tkacs reported that the Beautification Special Agency Account's balance as \$4,766.74 and the Senior Citizen Special Agency account's balance as \$14,378.84. Ms Fereira reported that the Beautification Special Agency Account has had no activity since Aug 15, 2009. Ms. Fereira stated that Mr. Paris, Director of Parks had suggested purchasing the cedar benches that are throughout town. They could be bolted to courtyard area; four benches would cost approximately \$4,000. Mr. Paris would clean up the overgrowth and would give some new plantings to beautify the courtyard area. Ms. Hanna moved, seconded by Ms. Mehlhorn to approve the expenditure to purchase benches for the Senior Citizen Center, using all funds available in the Beautification Special Agency account and closing the account thereafter.

It was the suggestion of the Senior Center Director to close the Beautification account and to work with only one account, the Senior Citizen Commission Special agency account. If any donations come in for the specific purpose of beautifying the Senior Center they will be ear-marked for that purpose and will be recorded in the monthly meeting minutes as such.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report:

Ms. Fereira reported that in March of 2010 \$283.00 had been received the breakdown is as follows:

Cash-Membership Non-residents –	30.00
Membership fee – resident -	\$5.00
Snack Bar proceeds – through March 11 -	\$88.00
Memorial Donation -	\$150.00
Memorial Donation -	<u>\$10.00</u>
Total	\$283.00

Ms. Fereira reviewed the budget report with the commissioners:

The March 2010 expenses are as listed;

Copy paper	\$280.00
Art class (grant)	\$400.00
St. Patrick's Day decorations and table covers	\$89.97
St Patrick's Day food supplies for 60+ people	\$326.97

* Ms. Fereira reported that there is an error of \$150.00 listed; the town Finance Dept. is in the process of correcting it.

Ms. Fereira distributed the Membership Registration procedure guidelines to the commissioners and reviewed the fees received to date with the commissioners. \$181.00 had been taken in to date (deposited into the Senior Citizen Commission Special Agency Account) \$38.00 is due the town to cover postage representing a balance of \$143.00 for the membership fees to date.

Mr. Nelson stated that the town wants a full time employee of the Senior Center to be health certified for the kitchen. Ms. Sulik, the Health Director, had suggested this to the

administration, explaining that certifying a full time employee is for liability issues and will enable the center to get the kitchen operational again. The certification expires in 2 years. Mr. Monaco clarified, that the certification is for 5 years. Mr. Nelson suggested that one or two other commissioners should be certified, in the event that the full timer is not available to work in the kitchen. Ms. Fereira stated that as volunteers are recruited she will implement a schedule of classes to certify the volunteers for the kitchen. Mr. Nelson stated a uniform policy should be in place for the kitchen. Ms. Fereira agreed.

Ms. Fereira distributed the flyers for the Senior Tea, and The Open House invitation to the commissioners for their review. Ms. Hanna suggested the flyers be placed at the Town Hall and the Library. The commissioners discussed the quantity of flyers needed; the commissioners agreed 150 would be enough. Ms. Dezenzo stated the CT POST would advertise their event but they will only place one event at a time (at no charge to the Senior Center). The commissioners discussed advertising the Proclamation on May 7, 2010 at 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Mehlhorn moved, seconded by Ms. Tkacs to print approximately 150 copies at Staples, advertising the Open House - Proclamation, and Victorian Tea.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fereira distributed the Senior Citizen Month of activities handout to the commissioners they are as listed:

May 7, 12:30 p.m. Senior Tea and Proclamation

May 14, 1:00 p.m. Senior Bingo – Maefair – parfait and punch

May 16, 1:00 p.m. Celebration of the Arts

Fruit trays, cheese & crackers and mach champagne punch.

Afternoon - two sheet cakes

May 21, 4:00 p.m. Senior Prom

Rotisserie chicken, mashed potato and green bean dinner

May 28, 1:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social and Sock Hop – Middlebrooks Farms at Trumbull-ice cream.

Ms. Fereira explained that a liquor permit would be required if the center served liquor at a cost of \$150.00. In lieu of champagne they will serve sparkling cider.

Utopia will be available at one of the events scheduled for Senior Month; they will not be actively soliciting. Mr. Nelson confirmed that if agencies are not actively soliciting they can set up tables at senior center events.

Ms. Tkacs moved, seconded by Ms. Weinstein to approve the appropriation of \$400.00 in total (\$50.00 for ice-cream; \$200.00 for the Victorian tea; and \$150. 00 for senior week supplies) from the Senior Citizen Special Agency account.

RSVP's had been added to the Senior Tea and Open House, that will help plan the events. Ms. Ondy stated that there is a grant that can only be used at Stop & Shop; that may help with the Senior Tea, since the kitchen is not operational until some one is certified. Ms. Ondy and Ms. Fereira will review the grant requirements to confirm whether the funds could be used for this event.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fereira reported that she has forwarded all e-mails she has received to the Chief of Staff, both commendations and complaints. The complaint form was distributed to the commissioners for their review.

The Senior Citizen Center will have a shopping and lunch excursion in May to Wendy's and the Christmas Tree Shoppe. The newsletter includes in the fundraiser section a request of donations for copy paper, and scotch tape. Ms. Fereira extended her gratitude to all those that volunteered at the chicken dinner.

The Senior Tea Volunteers are as listed:

Ms. Mehlhorn, Ms. Weinstein will serve Tea in the afternoon, Ms. Ondy, and Ms. Ciocci 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. (while her grandson is in school). Mr. Nelson will check his availability and get back to the commission. Mr. Nelson will also check to see if Mr. Raytor is available. Ms. Fereira will have the custodians offer their services for setting up. The kitchen will open after May 10, 2010; therefore the Senior Tea will need to use pre-made food at the event. Ms. Hanna will bring cookies. Ms. Hanna asked if anyone had tea cups with saucers, and if they could bring them in for the Senior Tea, approximately 20-30 would be needed.

Social Service Report:

Ms. Fereira reported that the pantry shelves are empty; the Senior food drive at Stop & Shop is scheduled for June 19, 2010. Volunteers are needed all day

Nurse's Report:

Ms. Ondy stated that she had been with the town for 12 years, she is a holistic geriatric nurse, Ms. Judith Locke, and Director of Nurses was also present. Ms. Ondy explained before the Senior Center had been renovated the center was not very active or as attended. The café (kitchen) has increased much of the activity of the center; in her 12 years as a senior nurse she has always had a very small budget but stated that she loves her job, and the seniors in this town. Ms. Ondy spoke very favorably of her Director, Ms. Locke. Ms. Locke stated her expertise is in pediatrics-school nurses and has been a department head for 23 years and spoke against the bickering that has been happening at the center.

Ms. Mehlhorn stated that the Senior Citizen Commission should start to reach out to the community more and more.

New Business:

Ms. Fereira stated that the Senior Center would like to pay tribute to Ms. Dick. The commissioners discussed several different ideas, after some discussion the commissioners decided to purchase plaques for the courtyard benches. Ms. Fereira suggested that they also remember Virginia Murphy the Founder of the Senior Center.

Ms. Dezenzo moved, seconded by Ms. Weinstein to approve the purchase of two plaques in memorial to Ms. V. Murphy and Ms. W. Dick. VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein moved, seconded by Ms. Tkacs to approve adding Public Session to all Senior Citizen Commission agendas. VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein moved, seconded by Ms. Dezenzo to approve adding Treasurer's Report to all upcoming Senior Citizen Commission agendas. VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Ms. Ciocci, seconded by Ms. Dezenzo, the Senior Citizen Commission adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Mastroni

Public Session
April 23, 2010

Ms. Ciocci opened the Public Session at 10:09 a.m.

Mr. Ralph Monaco requested a minute of silence in memory of Mrs. Wanda Dick, former Vice-Chairman of the Senior Citizen Commission. Mr. Monaco stated that Mrs. Dick was a wonderful person and will be missed.
All present shared a moment of silence for Mrs. Dick.

Julie Vonglinski stated that in 1999 after her breast cancer treatment she joined the Senior Center; her first activity was line dancing. She met many people and her circle of friends grew, Ms. Ferreira encouraged her as she wrote about her experiences. She now dances seven days a week, does tai Chi, yoga, works in the pc room, and is active with Smile Awhile. The snack bar at the Senior Center has become a meeting room and promotes comradely. Ms. Ferreira is always generous with the volunteers and praises them. At the Senior Appreciation Day last year the center was overflowing with people, this year only 40 people attended, the recent changes at the senior center troubles her. A petition has been circulated.

Sylvia Jones spoke against the recent changes at the Senior Center; nobody is socializing, and spoke against outsiders active at the center.

Mr. Ralph Monaco stated that at the last meeting the new commissioners had stated that Ms. Ferreira should not be working in the kitchen making money. Mr. Monaco spoke against that statement. The newsletter had brought in approximately \$2,000 in ads; Mr.

Monaco stated that Town Hall does not care about the seniors; they took very good people off the commission, Ms. C. Cleary and S. Daniels.

Lucille Boraway in a letter stated the last two years the Senior Center had come out of the dark ages, there are new programs which everyone loves and takes part in. This is a very active group of seniors. In the last two years there has been no negativity with anyone, which is why the public came to this meeting.

Ms. Ciocci closed the public session at 10:16 a.m.

Ms. Ciocci re-opened the public session at 10:17 a.m.

A gentleman from the public questioned whether donations to the center go directly to the special agency account, it was confirmed that they did.

Mr. Michael Klein stated he was new member of the center and stated that all the other senior centers have coffee available all through the day and receive food donations. This center does not.

Ms. Ciocci closed the public session at 10:18 a.m.