

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL  
CONNECTICUT**



Commission on Aging Meeting  
Friday, March 24, 2023  
2:00 pm

**Present:** Chairman Michael Ganino, Ron Foligno, Evelyn Wiesner, Nancy Lucas, Mark Ryan and Linda Randall

**Absent:** Alissa Heilbrunn and Debra Gilbert Taylor

**Also Present:** Michele Jakab, Director of Human Services and Cindy Katske, Chief Administrative Officer

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Mr. Ganino followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Ganino introduced Linda Randall as a new Commissioner. Ms. Randall noted she has been a resident of Trumbull for a total of over 24 years, is a member of the Senior Center and currently volunteers in the Food Pantry.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Motion was made by Mrs. Wiesner to approve the minutes of January 27, 2023 as written. Seconded by Ms. Lucas and approved with one abstention by Mrs. Wiesner.**

**Secretary's Report**

No report.

**Senior Center Director's Report**

Mr. Ganino commented on the budget presented to the Town noting it was very modest. Discussion was held regarding funds not used at the end of the fiscal year and the transfer of funds from one line item to another to cover expenses. Mrs. Katske reviewed the process for budget approval noting the next step would be approval by the Board of Finance on March 30. It would then go to the Town Council which will hold hearings with Department Heads and the public. Vote will be on May 4 to approve the budget with the Board of Finance setting the mill rate in mid-May. No other comments were made on the proposed budget.

Mrs. Jakab noted the following:

1. New staff at the Center – The Administrative Assistant position was changed to Program Coordinator to better reflect the job responsibilities with a start date of next week; a new custodian started approximately three weeks ago and a replacement for Ronnie Morgensen will start next week. These changes will bring them up to full staff. They are currently looking to fill a part-time Social Worker position. Two interns from Sacred Heart University are still working at the Center.
2. There are approximately 1,100 members.

3. Open House is scheduled for the first week in April with several events including presentations by the Trumbull Health Department and the Wellness Nurse.
4. The Center will be adding programs and will be open later in the afternoon now that staff openings have been filled.

Discussion was held regarding the Social Worker position open. Mrs. Jakab noted they could hire a graduate from the Sacred Heart program but in 2019, it became a requirement to have a State license to practice. It is not enough to just have your degree.

#### **Old Business**

1. Facilities Committee Update – Mr. Foligno noted the Committee received a preliminary traffic study report from VHB which created some concerns within the Committee. Areas of concern will be re-evaluated. State approval is required as changes to the State roadway would be required. Mrs. Wiesner commented a request for a new Senior Center started 56 years ago when Mr. James Butler was First Selectman. Mr. Foligno noted the Committee would be making some type of recommendation which would be presented to the Town Council. The Environmental Study results have not been received; both the Department of Public Works and an outside company are coordinating the compilation of this information. Any quotation over \$15 million (adjusted for inflation) would require a referendum.
2. Valentine’s Day Card Program – Trumbull Helps coordinated efforts within the community which resulted in over 2,700 cards. Mr. Ganino and Mr. Foligno distributed the cards to nursing homes, assisted living facilities and Stern Village.
3. Board of Education Programs - Frenchtown Elementary School Pilot – Mr. Ganino noted they will be starting a pilot program at Frenchtown Elementary School with the Media Center Director for seniors to participate in various activities with the students. This will include reading to groups, helping individual students read and assisting students in various other ways as assigned by the Director. The pilot will be twenty sessions. All participants must fill out an application and be cleared by the Board of Education prior to being accepted into the program. It is hoped that once the program is established, it can be expanded.

#### **New Business**

1. Mr. Ganino discussed the establishment of a Senior Day and is working with the Library Director who indicated it could be held in conjunction with the Trumbull Arts Festival at the Library. August 21 is National Senior Citizen Day and September is National Senior Center Month. The event could be like the Health Fair held in the past and he requested input from the Commissioners. Mrs. Jakab noted it would be difficult to have the event at the Center as they would need to cancel programs which would affect participant and instructor schedules.

#### **Old Business Continued**

4. The defibrillator has been approved.
5. Outreach to seniors was discussed. Volunteer participation is low and they need to increase participation in order to move forward with various programs or events. Mrs. Jakab noted they could E-Blast through the website which will bring awareness and more exposure.
6. Trumbull Business Discount Program – Mrs. Isaac contacted Mr. Ganino regarding the Verizon Discount Program and its inclusion in the list of organizations being reviewed by the Commission.
7. Food Pantry Donations – Mr. Ganino stated he picked up his first donations from the Derby BJs this week noting they would like to include chicken and vegetables. Discussion was held regarding food storage, refrigeration and distribution requirements.
8. Mrs. Lucas noted there will not be new lights installed at Unity Park for the pickleball courts but will be installed at Tashua.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Wiesner to adjourn the meeting at 3:04 pm. Seconded by Mr. Foligno and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk