

# Senior Citizen Commission – May 22, 2020

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission Virtual Meeting

May 22, 2020

10:00 am

The Senior Citizen Commission of the Town of Trumbull held a virtual meeting on May 22, 2020.

**Present:** Chairman Marcy Kelly, Ron Foligno, Mark Ryan and Michael Ganino (entered the meeting at 10:08 am)

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

Absent: Jean DaRold and Evelyn Wiesner

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Mrs. Kelly followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **Past Minutes**

Approval of the February 28, 2020 meeting deferred until later in the meeting.

## **Secretary's Report**

No Secretary's Report.

## **Director's Report**

Mrs. Jakab reported on activities since the Center closed in March. Their primary focus has been providing meals on wheels and groceries. Every Friday the staff provides over 100 bags of food supplies, dairy products and paper supplies. Every senior is eligible; it is not on any financial assistance program but funded through the CARES Act. The food pantry is also open and groceries can be brought out to the seniors if they do not want to come into the building.

The staff has remained engaged with the members first reaching out to members over the age of 85. Staff has tried to call everyone in the database which is approximately 5,000 members. They are making calls to check on members and to discuss programs and activities and have started some ZOOM programs. This included a program with Bridgeport Hospital to answer questions to see what it was like in the hospital. They are also trying to set up trivia and Bingo with the members and offering them classes through YouTube. They do not want their members to become isolated. Some of the seniors have volunteered to help make connections throughout the community. She also noted there are some high school students making calls for community service and one student did an online concert.

Mrs. Jakab noted there has been an increase to the pantry usage since this started. She is tracking this information in three different ways. They were able to provide a meals on wheels program. This replaces the meals offered every day for lunch at the Center and it is through the Older American's Act.

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There are 25 new additional clients for that program. For the food pantry, they have seen over 80 new people who need assistance. The CERT team has been instrumental in getting the meals on wheels delivered. They have also had a grocery bag program with over 200 individuals being served. This does not include senior housing in town – Teresian Towers, Huntington Place and Stern Village. These locations are providing their own program to their residents. She is required to do tracing for the State because it is covered by the CARES Act.

Mrs. Kelly noted that Mrs. Jakab and her team are doing an outstanding job with outreach to the community to keep the seniors engaged.

## **Chairman's Report**

Mrs. Kelley noted that she and Mrs. Jakab are on the Long Term Recovery Committee and they are looking at how to offer support and outreach in the future.

## **Old Business**

Mr. Ryan questioned if there was any movement on the Senior Center Survey. Mr. Foligno noted there is no update. The committee meeting scheduled for May 20 was cancelled.

## **Past Minutes**

Motion was made by Mr. Ganino to approve the minutes of February 28, 2020 as written. Seconded by Mrs. Kelly and approved unanimously.

## **New Business**

1. Mr. Ganino noted he will be doing a ZOOM magic show for the Senior Center.
2. Mrs. Katske thanked the EMS, first responders and the Town of Trumbull employees for their support and hard work during the last two months.
3. Mrs. Jakab noted there is a COVID link on their website with information.
4. It was noted that the Senior Center is waiting for instructions for reopening. The Town will compile information from the State, Emergency Management and the Health Department to formulate a plan for reopening safely.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Ganino to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 am. Seconded by Mr. Foligno and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk