

## SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2016

**Present:** Kathy Bagley, Erica Texeira, Christine Taylor, Christina Morra-Tiu, Katie Mezick, Tony Martino, Agnes Bolasevich, Chris Skowronek, Joe Mehan, Claire Mehan, Barbara Higbee, Henry Higbee, Henry Hornat

**Absent:** Kathi Liberman

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm. Members introduced themselves to the group.

**Minutes:** Two corrections to the November minutes were made. In the Council Liaison report, it was noted the word kayak was misspelled. The meeting adjournment time was corrected to be 3:45pm. A motion was made by Joe Mehan and seconded by Henry Hornat to approve the minutes from the November meeting with these corrections.

### **Old Business:**

- **Financial Update:** Lisa Galipo reported we have a balance of \$1,000 in our account after paying for the 12/31 Rare Reminder ad ran with the January Senior Center program information. Two additional full-page ads will be paid for from the SCAC account since \$1400 has been allocated for this purpose. After that ads will be paid for out of the Senior Center escrow account.
- **Committee Membership:** Kathy Bagley noted that there is still one vacancy on this committee.

### **New Business:**

- **Spring Event:** Joe Mehan updated the committee regarding plans for the annual SCAC spring event. He reported the event will be called “KISS” the acronym for “Keep It Simple Seniors.” The subcommittee planning the event is considering speakers regarding solar panels, reverse mortgages, cell phone plans, electric suppliers and assisted living. No date has been set yet for the event. The subcommittee needs to check with Kathi Liberman regarding her conference schedule before setting a date. The subcommittee will meet again directly following this meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Council Liaison:** Tony Martino reported:
  - Council members have decided on their committee responsibilities and Tony will be staying with the SCAC. He will also be chairing the Budget Committee and on the Shared Services and Public Works committees.
  - The Town Council has begun working on the budget. They have had preliminary meetings with the mayor, superintendent of schools and the Finance Director.
  - The Town Manager is considering combining some boards and commissions and has proposed combining the SCAC and WACPD. Tony has given his thoughts about this merger to the Town Manager.
- **Clergy:** Pastor Chris Skowronek reported that:

- A list is being developed of what churches are providing services to seniors. He will report back to this committee when the list is complete.
- CenterPoint Community Church is holding a comedy night tomorrow night and plans to add a collection to this and future events. Those attending comedy night are being asked to bring a food item for the food pantry.
- Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent: Chris Taylor reported
  - The CRT Energy Assistance program is ongoing.
  - The Town has received \$5,000 from Operation Fuel.
  - Requests for the food pantry continue to be high.
  - Potential volunteers for the Friendly Visitor/Friendly Shopper program have come forward. A training will be offered to these volunteers.
  - Information regarding the CT Masters Games is now available.
  - Choice Magazine is offering talking magazines for persons with disabilities. Chris handed out brochures regarding this program.
- People with Disabilities: Chris Taylor reported:
  - A meeting was held last night at which clients raised some concerns about Curtin Transportation's service. Individuals with issues will be following up with Kathy Bagley.
  - There will be a transportation meeting on March 16 at 7pm at First Church Village.
  - The Transitional Academy is looking for a new space. They are considering a building at the corner of Nott Street and the Silas Deane Highway.
  - Natalie Morrison reported that she is combining some trips with the Senior Center.
  - 633 people attended the Santa's breakfast in December.
  - Natalie has a snowshoeing event coming up.
  - Lee Sekas reported that there is no railing from the parking lot at Price Rite causing some accessibility problems.
- Wethersfield Seniors Club: Agnes Bolasevich reported:
  - 91 seniors attended the Christmas banquet.
  - New people continue to come to bingo.
  - The Community Café is operating within the Banquet Room during the asbestos abatement process. The first Wednesday with Bingo and the Café sharing this space went well.
- Social Services/Senior Center: Lisa Galipo reported:
  - Some activities were temporarily suspended in January due to the asbestos abatement project in the Senior Center area of the building. Most exercise classes, Lunch & Learns and Monday movies will resume by early February.
  - The Computer Learning Center is starting classes in March and has completely revamped their curriculum offering many new classes.
  - The Senior Center received a grant from the Keane Foundation to continue Chair Yoga classes.
  - Membership continues to increase. Some of the increase is due to the combined membership of the Senior Center and Senior Club. Membership is currently over 700.
  - A new Senior Center bulletin board will be put up in the front hallway between Room F1 and the bathrooms.

- Erica Teixeira reported on the Hunger Action Team. The group is looking at food insecurity and the needs of Wethersfield residents. A group of 25 residents, local providers and Town employees are meeting on a monthly basis. The next meeting will be held on 2/12 at which time subcommittees will be formed.
- Parks & Recreation: Kathy Bagley reported:
  - CT Transit is looking at bus routes in the area. A meeting was held today on a bus. The company has surveyed ridership and found that ridership is down on the Prospect and Wolcott Hill routes. A website is available for public comment.
  - The Senior Club and Senior Center merger is now complete. The balance of Senior Club monies has been transferred to the Senior Center account. Bingo funds will remain in the current checking account.

**Announcements/Other Business:**

- Henry Hornat asked if a Senior Center membership list could be made available so groups like the Setback Club could check that people attending are members. Lisa said a new list is printed at the beginning of every month for a similar purpose upon entry to the monthly musical entertainment. She will provide a copy to the Setback group.
- Lisa asked if the Senior Center membership form could be put on-line. Kathy Bagley will check on this.

The next meeting will be held on February 18, 2016 at 3:00 pm and will be followed immediately by a meeting of the Planning Committee for the annual Education Seminar.

A motion to adjourn was made by Claire Mehan and seconded by Christina Morra-Tiu. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Galipo