

[NOTE: These minutes are made available to the public prior to Senior Citizen Advisory Committee acceptance.]

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - Thursday, April 20, 2006

Vice-Chair Jane Helen Ross opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Members present were Jane Helen Ross, Grace Piencikowski, Donna Mattison, Christine Taylor, Bertha Keenan, Kathy Lieberman, Seth English, Estelle Knurek and Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

Visitors present were Nancy Stilwell, Director, Social and Youth Services Department, Clare Mehan, Joe Mehan and Maribeth Dwane from the Wethersfield Health Care Center.

1. Public Comments.

No public comments.

2. [Minutes - March 16, 2006](#).

Donna Mattison identified one correction for the minutes. She explained in section 4-D, that the music and movement program will be held both in May and June. The minutes only identified the music program for June. Donna Mattison then moved to approve the minutes with the correction. The motion was seconded by Kathy Lieberman and voted unanimously.

3. Old Business.

a. Election of Chairperson.

At this time no member of the committee is interested in serving as chairperson for this committee. Ms. Bagley suggested keeping this as an Agenda item as they look to get a new chairperson in the future.

4. New Business.

a. Budget Status. - Fiscal Year 2005-2006.

Donna Mattison gave a status report on the current year's budget. She reported that there is \$480 left in the committee's budget. She had some suggestions for spending the remainder of these funds. She suggested purchasing literature racks that would be wall mounted in the Social and Youth Services Department for senior citizen information. She recommended a cost of approximately \$280 for this purchase. Her second suggestion was to allocate up to \$200 for the volunteer recognition party to be held by Social and Youth Services on June 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. These items were discussed and the committee felt that they were appropriate expenditures for their budget. Grace Piencikowski moved to spend up to \$280 for literature racks for senior citizen information and allocate up to \$200 for the volunteer recognition party. The motion was seconded by Seth English and voted unanimously.

b. Budget Status for Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

Ms. Bagley reported that the budget would be approximately the same amount of money for next year pending Council's approval. The budget amount would be \$2,000. As soon as Council approves the budget, the committee can look to spend their funds in the new budget year. Committee members discussed ideas for the upcoming fiscal year. After much discussion, committee members felt they would talk with senior citizens regarding their needs for services and bring ideas to the May meeting. Also, each committee member will share information on services that are provided for senior citizens. This process will help educate all members on the services available in town for senior citizens. Ideas came up about housing issues, possibly a housing expo or program fair for the upcoming year.

Committee members thought a lot of good information would come out of the May meeting and that they will take the time to identify current services and discuss future needs. Since this meeting will be a good brainstorming session for the committee, no reports will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. However, if any member has important information at that time, they can certainly bring it up at the meeting.

5. Reports.

a. Wethersfield Housing Authority.

Kathy Lieberman reported that everything is okay with the Housing Authority.

b. Clergy Representative.

Seth English reported that he is involved with many different groups that interact with senior citizens and he will be able to bring a good perspective to the committee about their needs and services.

c. AARP.

Jane Helen Ross reported that they have had a good program and Estelle Knurek reported that at their upcoming program an attorney will be present discussing elderly law. Jane Helen Ross also reported they will be electing officers next month.

d. Elderly Services Coordinator.

Chris Taylor distributed a report on the legislative update and gave a brief overview of what is going on at the state legislature. She also reported that the CRT Energy Assistance has been extended until May 1. She also attends the Wethersfield Committee for People with Disabilities meetings and they are currently on the second draft of their handbook identifying services for people with disabilities.

e. Wethersfield Senior Club.

Grace Piencikowski reported that they are busy planning their June banquet and that installation of officers will be in June.

f. Social Services/Senior Center.

Donna Mattison reported that she held a program on "Cognitive Aspects of the Brain." It went over very well and she is going to look to do similar things in the future. She is setting aside Tuesday afternoons as a time for seniors to come in and socialize, play board games and card games as a means of continuing to develop the cognitive aspects of the brain. On June 1, she will be sponsoring a "Healthy Bingo" program and she reported that the May newsletter is now out.

g. Nancy Stilwell reported that they received preliminary approval for a grant for their expanded service for Dial-a-Ride. This grant is a tri-town effort with Newington and Rocky Hill and it will provide additional service for medical transportation. She also reported that the "Glass Slipper" project has been very successful in acquiring formal wear for students at the high school. The last week in April the students will be able to come in and try these gowns on. She also reported that she has received an outpouring of support from the community and that senior citizens were volunteering their time to help.

h. Maribeth Dwane from the Wethersfield Health Care Center has been working with Social Services on some of these issues and donated to the Senior Center additional workbooks on crossword puzzles and word games for the seniors. Donna Mattison thanked her for the items. Maribeth Dwane also reported that the Wethersfield Health Care Center has donated funds for the Special Olympics 2nd Annual Roaring Thunder Motorcycle Ride," a benefit for Special Olympics. This donation will fund

the T-shirts for this event. Kathy Bagley thanked Maribeth Dwane for this generous donation and will pass it onto the recreation staff involved in this program.

6. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.