

**COMMISSION ON AGING AND DISABLED
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Brecher
Maureen Lynch
Urania Nicholson
Greg Stelmak
Jerilyn Nagel (left a 6:50 PM)
Roberta Byron Kolej

MEMBERS ABSENT

Therese Nadeau
Patricia Hanbury

STAFF

Dianne Stone
Gail Whitney

TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS

David Nagel (arrived at 6:40 PM)
Carol Anest (left at 6:55 PM)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Karen Brecher called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Greg Stelmak noted that on page 3 of the minutes it should say **X. AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER MEETING** not for September meeting. **The October minutes of the Commission on Aging and Disabled were accepted as read with the correction.**

V. STAFF REPORT

Dianne reported that November is an exciting time of year because the Center's largest event, that the 22nd Annual Expo is scheduled for Friday, November 4th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. There are seven gold sponsors this year. Advertising has been placed in local papers, email blasts, and on Facebook. Dianne thanked Eleanor Eichner for all the hard work she puts into making this annual event a success.

Annetta Urban, who worked part time in the office, has taken a full time position elsewhere. Interviews were held and Caroline Elsner was hired through the Senior Job Bank. She started last week, has been going through orientation, and she seems to be doing a great job.

October programs included Balance with Vertigo on October 4th with Joe Allen from Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Centers; tech help continued with Jim Late and Jay Slater; there was an ice cream/apple crisp social; Live Well Diabetes Self Management six week program; Aging Mastery Program continues; Veteran's Coffee Hour with Wayne Rioux has been very successful averaging a dozen men to discuss benefits and resources; Lunch and Learn program on October 27th on Dementia 101 sponsored by The Atrium of Rocky Hill; and a very successful new program Jeopardy! Upcoming programs include a craft workshop creating sock snowmen, and grief in the holidays. The Center will be closed on November 11th and on Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving week.

The Center has started a Trips and Travel Program; a committee of four people organized a trip on October 14th to Foxwoods Casino. There were two buses at \$20 per person bringing in \$310 for this program. Another casino trip is planned for December 14th. The committee will continue to meet and is deciding on trips for next year, including a casino trip every other month, and possible trips to the Newport Playhouse, Thimble Islands, Niagara Falls (two or three day trip), Delaney House, Griswold Inn, and Atlantic City (two or three day trip). There will still be discussions with the Elmwood Community Center on holding joint trips and using their buses.

The budget process has begun with the Center given the annual instructions at the department level, and once again coming in with a 0% increase. Dianne indicated that the Commissioners can have a role in reviewing the budget if they so choose.

Dianne stated that Denise has prepared a list of what is currently in various accounts: Coffee Shop \$8,941, Gift Shop \$38,000, Membership \$53,000, Fitness \$3,500, Donations \$15,000 for a total of approximately \$119,000 in the revenue fund. Dianne explained that in the cafeteria the round tables are good for dining and conversation, however not for playing cards. Denise is researching drop leaf tables that would have a multiuse and are 30 inch square/42 round and have a cost of \$7,364 for 15 tables.

MOTION: Urania Nicholson made a motion to allocate up to \$8,000 and authorize the purchase of 15 drop leaf tables, Roberta Byron Kolej seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

Dianne mentioned that the Center has been awarded a grant from the Department of Social Services to access long term services and support. The Center is one of three communities to receive this grant and work with Partner Network Enhancement in order to create a network within the community to help people apply for Medicare, assist with caregiving, and work with partners such as the Library or the Chamber to achieve connections with the community. The grant money has allowed the Center to hire Julie Evans Starr who is a national expert on this program, and will have the opportunity to work on developing this statewide system.

GymGuys has been hired to offer training in the Fitness Room. Mike Hughes, one of the co-owners is piloting a small group training program for members of the Center, and a strength program. His girlfriend works for the Smart Family Foundation and this foundation is donating \$20,000 to the Center. This money will be used in various areas such as funding the Aging Mastery Program, starting an evidence based program providing powerful tools for caregivers (\$400 per person for training), and renovating the arts room to create it as more of an art studio. The Newington Art League has been searching for a new home and the Center will give them access to the woodworking room for 13 weeks at a time, and they will in turn provide assistance in the renovation of the art room to an art studio.

A. Door Counters

Dianne reported that there are 372 people coming into the building on average each day –averaging 21 days per month.

VI. MONTHLY TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The Town Manager’s report was distributed to the Commissioners.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Self-Assessment

This Self-Assessment continues to be worked on.

B. ByLaws/Rules of Procedure Discussion

This agenda item will be tabled until the December meeting.

C. Strategic Planning

This agenda item will be tabled until the December meeting.

D. ADA Discussion

Dianne reported that Karen Futoma and Bill DeMaio will attend the December meeting to discuss ADA; however, Dianne will give a brief overview for the Commissioners. ADA is piece of civil rights legislation passed in 1990 and was created basically to provide the same kind of rights protection for discrimination, race, color, sex, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunication. ADA has five different sections, including employment, state and local government, and public accommodations that is any place that is not a federal state or local government that serves the public, for example restaurants, hotels, movie theaters, doctors’ offices, creating equal access to these places.

Newington Charter states that the Director of Human Services serves as the ADA Coordinator. The Town does a self-evaluation with regard to barriers/accessibility to parking spaces, restrooms, elevators. Dianne asked if the Commissioners had anything specifically that they would like Karen and Bill to address when they come to the December meeting. Greg asked what role the Commission on Aging and Disabled plays with regard to ADA requirements and Dianne responded that the Commission’s role would be to monitor and record people’s needs of the Town. The Commission’s role in the Town is to be advocates for people with disabilities. Karen indicated that she would like to know if the Town is meeting ADA requirements with regard to their self-evaluation.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

IX. AGENDA FOR JANUARY MEETING

Keep everything as is.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

David Nagel reported that the November 8th Town Council meeting is cancelled due to Election Day, and the next scheduled meeting is November 22nd.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Roberta Byron Kolej made a motion to adjourn, Urania Nicholson seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion was unanimously passed with a 5-0 vote at 7:50 P.M.

The next meeting of the Commission on Aging and Disabled is Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Whitney, Commission Clerk