

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 21, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair; Ron Heinbaugh, Mary McCarthy, Tom Valentino, Amy Squyres (9:05 a.m.), Jennifer Geddes (9:06 a.m.), Gerri Genovese (9:20 a.m.)

STAFF: Olive Hauser, Human Services Director; Beth Paris, Senior Center Director

OTHERS: First Selectmen Jamie Stevenson, David Campbell

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was not present.

HUMAN SERVICES REPORT.

Ms. Hauser presented her report and displayed a copy of and updated Special Needs directory. She added that the department had been working on the Special Needs Directory for some time and expected to have it completed in the near future.

Ms. Squyres joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Ms. Hauser said that May 1st was the electric and utilities shut off day for those who are in arrears in their residences. She said that the department has been helping those residents as much as possible.

Ms. Geddes joined the meeting at 9:06 a.m. A quorum was now present.

Ms. Christina K. Crain has retired from the Director of Programs for the Southwestern CT Agency on Aging and taken a position as Director at the Stamford Senior Center.

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT.

Ms. Paris complimented Ms. Hauser on the Special Needs Directory. She added that she was delighted that Ms. Crane would be working in Stamford and wants to work in partnership with Darien.

Ms. Paris said that the Senior Center Directors are now meeting with one another to share resources and creative ideas.

There had been a number of comments from new attendees that if they had known about the high quality of the programs offered, they would have come sooner.

Ms. Paris then spoke about a Pharmacist who will be offering a program called "Ask a Pharmacist", similar to the very successful "Ask A Lawyer". The focus is to help seniors with the Health and Wellness Quality of Life.

She went on to list the various specialized clinics that will be offering when the Center moves into the new space.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

April 16, 2014 Meeting.

**** MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED THE APRIL 16, 2014 MEETING**

**** MS. SQUYRES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 16, 2014 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS.

Ms. Paris said that hopefully the move will be in June and settled by July. Ms. Stevenson said that it was hoped that the Certificate of Occupancy by the end of May.

Mr. Pankowski asked about a grand opening party. Ms. Paris said that there might be an Open House and a formal Thank You type opening. Ms. Stevenson said that the Building Committee had spoken about the events. One would be a soft opening when the group gets into the building. Then the Building Committee would like to have an Ceremonial Opening before the end of school. Then an Open House might be scheduled later in the fall when the various Boards (RTM, BOF) could attend along with the public.

Ms. Genovese joined the group at 9:20 a.m.

Ms. Squyres asked about the formal name for the Center. Ms. Stevenson said that it has been referred to previously as The Mather Center. She said that the Building Committee would be discussing this. Discussion followed about the name including the Community Center and Senior Center functions.

Mr. Campbell joined the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Mr. Pankowski reminded everyone that the Commission had voted on the name a number of months ago and it was recorded in the minutes. Ms. Squyres said that a number of residents asked about this. Mr. Campbell said that it would be clearer when the tour of the facility had been taken.

Ms. Stevenson said that she would leave it to the Commission to discuss this further and spoke about the signage. She said that it has been her preference to have it called the Mather Community Center. Mr. Pankowski pointed out that all the various discussions the facility had always been referred to as "The Mather Community Center". Mr. Campbell said that the important factor was that the Seniors would have a nice facility to use. He said that the new facility was much more secure than the old facility has been in the past.

Ms. Paris said that she believed that the policy was adopted that the Senior Center had priority on scheduling in the evening. She then reviewed policies and pointed out that the various groups need to cooperate in terms of scheduling.

Mr. Pankowski asked about the Grand Opening and whether June 17th would be a realistic date. Discussion followed. Mr. Pankowski said that he thought a September Grand Opening would be a better choice since during the Summer, many of the residents are not in town. Ms. Stevenson said that she thought that if it could be on the night when the RTM was meeting would be excellent. Mr. Campbell said that he had chosen the date, but wanted Ms. Paris to be settled in for the Grand Opening. Discussion followed. Mr. Pankowski suggested that the ribbon cutting date tentatively planned for the night that the RTM meeting at 7 p.m.

Ms. Paris said that she would like to be up and running again a week after the move in, but during the summer, there was lighter programming. She added that it would be best to wait until the numbers settle down to restart the lunch program because of budgetary concerns.

NEW BUSINESS.

Mr. Pankowski said that the group was scheduled to tour the new facility following the conclusion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT.

- ** MS. SQUIRES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. GENOVESE SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Darien Human Services
Commission on Aging Report
May 21, 2014

1. The Renter's Rebate program for the elderly and disabled is open and has been returned to 2012 funding and eligibility.
2. The Senior Resource Directory has been updated again. We have also published a Directory of Elderly Housing and Adult Day Care in Southwestern CT. In addition we are working on a Resource Directory for Special Needs which should be available sometime in June.
3. A draft of a Resource Directory for people with disabilities is just about finished and should be ready for distribution by the end of June.
4. The Heights should be finished and filled by the end of June. There are a number of one bedroom apartments being occupied now and we have seen a couple of new seniors.
5. Chris Crane from the Southwest CT Agency on Aging is leaving her job at SWCAA to take the position of Director of the Stamford Senior Center. We are sorry to see her leave SWCAA but are happy that she will be closer to us. We look forward to working with her.

Respectfully Submitted,
Olive Hauser, Director

Commission On Aging Report

Darien Senior Activities Center

May 21, 2014

Respectfully submitted: Beth Paris, Coordinator

The Senior Center Community is anxiously anticipating a moving date. Staff continues to plan and schedule programs for the 30 Edgerton address with the idea that we will now cancel programs when necessary for the week of the future move. There is a full and balanced schedule in the works with an optimistic eye on the Fall as the place for new programs and programming.

The building has undergone many breaks down over the last week of April through May. The Telephone and computer service were out for 2 days due to a burnt out relay switch in the boiler room. Water coming into the building in new and interesting places in rain storms. The front window required boarding up in certain places because of interior rot and the boiler going out daily because of a multitude of issues. The overhang in the front of the building has extreme wood rot and we are picking up wood daily. All issues have been Q-Alerted and addressed in some fashion.

Monthly Caregiver Educational Support Group: 4

Caregiver Options Counseling: 7

Referrals to Human Services: 5

At Home in Darien Assist: 14

Program Days for May: 21

Closed : May 26th Memorial Day

Highlighted Programs for May:

2nd: AARP Chapter Meeting -Entertainment- Grandmas' & Grandpas' Barber Shop Quartet

5th: Blood Pressure Screening

6th : Art Gottlieb LCSW presents lecture on Harry Truman

7th: Garden Club of Darien: Spring Blooms Flower Arranging

7th 21st 29th "Let's Talk" with Alison Petro, MS

12th Affordable Ideas for Remaining at Home-Barbara Newland-Complimentary LUNCH & LEARN

13th Celebrate me Home -Life Legacy through Journaling

14th Ct Pharmacy presents "Healthy Foods"

15th Geri Genovese discusses "Sweet Memories"

20th Stamford Hospital Complimentary Lunch and Learn: "GI Issues in Aging"

22nd BINGO PLUS with Pam James

23rd Ask a Lawyer 10:00-11:00 by appointment only

26th CLOSED for MEMORIAL DAY

28th Fairfield University Matter of Balance 7 week course begins

29th SEDGEWICK SISTERS Entertain: SOUTHERN BLUES SHOW

Ongoing Works in Progress

Programming Summer& Fall

Monthly Stats

Instructor meetings regarding scheduling

Policy Manual updates

weekly Staff meetings gear up for move

Building Issues:

Lost Heat several times in end of April through early May-Boiler is being maintained daily reset and manual water feeder-appears to be a leak in the boiler or somewhere in the system; fascia of the building dropping rotted wood on the walk way; interior front plate glass window taking on water again -extreme rot apparent Burned out telephone card and relay switch took phones and computers out for 2 days on for 3 and then out again for 2 AT &T issue.

Meeting Attended: SWCAA Advisory Board; COA Meeting; SWCAA Senior Center Directors Advisory Group; Kiwanis Club featured Speaker