

DRAFT
TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 15, 2011

ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Geddes, Charlie England, Mary McCarthy, Pat Morgan,
Amy Squyres, Tom Valentino, Robin Woods
ABSENT: Joseph Pankowski, Ron Heinbaugh
OTHERS: Olive Hauser, Director of Social Services

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Geddes, Acting Chairwoman, called to order the regular meeting at 9:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

The following change was made to the Minutes:

Page 2, Old Business, Paragraph 3, Line 1, delete *a front*, replace with *an*

**** MS. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**
**** MS. MORGAN SECONDED.**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Ms. Paris sent her June report before the meeting as she was not able to attend. The air conditioners at the Center were discussed. Ms. Paris said in her report that one unit was fixed. Ms. Squyres said that the remaining units should be fixed right away as seniors are sensitive to heat. Ms. Geddes said that she will call Mr. Pankowski about this. An e-mail will be sent to the Board on the status.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

Ms. Hauser reported that people are still in need of help with fuel costs. The fuel is not for heating, but for hot water.

The renter's rebate program calculations are still unknown.

Ms. Inta Adams, Assistant Director of Social Services, is working with seniors to assist them with their medical insurance plans, prescription issues, and Medicare Part D. Mr. Valentino mentioned that medicare.gov website is a good site to use.

Ms. Geddes mentioned that insurance companies are planning to not cover Tier 4 drugs which are expensive drugs and non-generic. Ms. Hauser questioned if the government will step in and stop the insurance companies. Ms. Geddes said that when she returns to work on Friday she will get the relevant information and e-mail it to the Board so that letters can be written.

Ms. Hauser said that there are a few residents who are still living tenuously. Some live in squalor conditions, and others are too fragile to help themselves.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. England reminded all about the car show at Tilley Pond Park on Father's Day.

Ms. Squyres said that at an earlier COA meeting, she volunteered to write a letter to the newspaper on the shuffle. She is going to pass on it for the time being, as she believes that now is not the right time.

Mr. England said that he goes to the Sugar Bowl and meets up with a group for coffee. Some are naysayers on the shuffle. Those naysayers are still seeking to learn the number of people who use the Center, even though those numbers are available and are regularly posted. Ms. Geddes believes that these people have blinders on and it is just their excuse to not support the proposed Senior Center. Mr. England suggested that the attendance numbers be posted in the Darien Times. Ms. Squyres said this is a good idea, and to discuss with Ms. Swiatek first the 'usage report' that will be sent to the newspaper.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Woods said that the proposed new Senior Center will be called *Mather Community Center*. She said that there is a meeting today to approve the conceptual drawings. There is no financial information available just yet. She said that Tom Arcari, architect, commented that the recent census figures support the size of the proposed Center.

Ms. Morgan said that Ms. Paris has done a remarkable job and that she should be acknowledged. She shows empathy and dedication. In spite of the working conditions at the Center, she rises above that aspect. Ms. Hauser concurred and said that because of her level of caring about seniors and the Senior Center, she does take criticism of the attendance numbers to heart, knowing they are much better than what some believe. Ms. McCarthy said that Ms. Paris' name can be submitted to the *Women of Distinction* nominating committee for next year. Ms. Squyres said that perhaps Mr. Pankowski is aware of a State program that recognizes individuals who go above and beyond. Ms. Geddes said that she will ask Mr. Pankowski.

Ms. Squyres said that Ms. Gina Blum has been appointed as the new Director for AIP + Gallivant. There may be a part-time person hired, but until that event, Ms. Alyssa Israel may fill that role.

Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Morgan discussed the Republican Town Committee and the need to get more people, and more appointees. Ms. Squyres mentioned that Ms. Stevenson said at another COA meeting that there can be Independents.

Ms. Squyres said that people are worried about the shuffle. Ms. Woods inquired when the presentation will be made to the BOS. Ms. Squyres said September 26, and prior to the meeting, she suggested that the Commission members discuss with Mr. Pankowski his message.

Mr. England announced that he will be signing a lease for a home in the Silvermine area in Norwalk in August. He will not be able to serve on this board after his move. Ms. Squyres mentioned that he will be able to continue in his role with AIP + Gallivant.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. MORGAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MS. SQUYRES SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 20, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., Room 119, Darien Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hohlweck,
Recording Secretary

Attachment (Senior Center Report)

Darien Senior Activities Center

Commission on Aging Report

June 15, 2011

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Coordinator

June promises to be another diverse programming month. We are very happy to be offering a **3 part series Balance and Fall Prevention** –“*Helping you Help Yourself*” offered free of charges from Darien Physical Therapy Assoc. There are already over 30 folks signed up for this program. We are also offering **Financial Program** “*Investments in Retirement*” sponsored by NY Life Insurance Co. complimentary lunch will be provided to all attendees.

Senior Senior Prom was a big success on a day of record breaking heat. 25 Older Adults and 22 DHS Seniors had a great time socializing and Hopping to the beat of Randy Holloway. It was a 50’s theme complete with decorations, punch bowl and refreshments which both groups contributed to.

Carolynn Lewis retired this month and will be moving to North Carolina. We are currently interviewing for the part time position of Program Specialist.

Ongoing Work in Progress: Interviews for Program Specialist
Programming for Fall and Winter
Monthly Newsletter/Publicity
Meeting with and providing information to Architect
Caregiver Support
Statistic Gathering and Reporting

Building Projects: General Troubleshooting regarding Building needs
Gift Shop in final stage of reorganization
Reorganize desk sign and information area
Hygenix Air Testing

June Program Highlights: 6th Blood Pressure
6th Osteoarthritis Presentation w Dr Greg Rysak
8th Senior Senior Prom
7th, 14th, 21st & 28th Women’s Roles Discussion “50 & 60”
13th Serendipity Singers
15th AARP Driving Course
20th Financial Paradigm of Retirement
21st Caregiver Group
22nd Father’s Day High Tea
27th “A Trip to Israel” with Harriet Lacker

Meetings Attended Social Service June 3rd, SWCAA June 8th, AIP Coordinator as needed.

- Building Issues:**
- Oriented with new clearing service Service Master of Westport
 - Air Condition failure Movie Room-Mouse nest found ate circuit board-
Not able to repair will retrofit another less sophisticated system for that
 - Art Room Air Conditioner not operational requires Service
 - Relocating Programs out of the gym area for the summer once movie
Room is available
 - Computer Room closed for summer no air conditioning
 - Wood shop will remain open due to heavy demand-gentlemen using
Fans and only in area in the morning