

Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes
9:30 AM – Senior Center
March 14, 2011

Present: K. Grunwald (staff), C. Pellegrine (Chair), D. Nolan, A. Holinko, B. Lavoie (staff), J. Terry, S. Gordon, T. Rogers, E. Poirier, C. Dainton (staff), J. Scottron, J. Adamcik, M. Thatcher, J. Quarto (Vice-Chair), W. Bigl, Bev Korba (guest)
Regrets: None

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair C. Pellegrine called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes:** The minutes of the **February 14, 2011** meeting were accepted, with the correction that the Long-Range Plan's publicity was created by a committee including J. Quarto and A. Holinko with C. Pellegrine.
- IV. **Correspondence** – Chair and Staff: none.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **Non-profit Agency Funding Requests: Review of Applications-**
 - Dial-A-Ride: M. Thatcher and D. Nolan reviewed the application and spoke with Rose Kurcinik. The decrease in the amount of the request is due to an increase in funding from other sources. This is a valuable resource for residents with no other transportation options. Recommend funding at the requested level. This was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.
 - TVCCA: J. Terry reviewed this application. She contacted Tina Bettencourt from TVCCA, who clarified the in-kind services that they receive for this program. Mansfield is one of 2 towns that did not fund at the requested level. She recommended that we fund at the requested amount. Moved, seconded, approved unanimously.
 - McSweeney Center: J. Quarto reviewed this application. Mansfield's contribution has been reduced in the past year. Director Kit Eves reports that a Mansfield residents visited McSweeney 634 times last year, but was not able to identify the number of Mansfield residents using the dental clinic. Moved and seconded to fund at the requested level of \$6500. Motion was approved unanimously. Staff raised questions regarding the actual number of Mansfield residents who are served at McSweeney, given the lack of clarity of the statistics presented. C. Pellegrine suggested getting more specifics in the future; she will follow-up. J. Terry asked if the money is specifically used to support the dental clinic, which it appears that it is not.

Community Companion and Homemaking Service.: A. Holinko reviewed this application; she has referred to this agency previously. She rated the agency as a 29 out of a possible total of 30. They have projected to serve an increased number of clients (75) this year. The funding request translates to \$60 per client and \$2 per contact, which appears to be very reasonable. She feels that this agency is essential to seniors in Town, as their services are critical to keeping people in their homes. Moved, seconded and unanimously approved to fund at the requested level.

- B. “Other”: Senior Center Fee Waiver Ordinance: K. Grunwald reported that the Town Council amended the fee waiver ordinance to include Senior Center Programs where a fee is charged. This will go into effect on March 28.

VI. Optional Reports on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – B. Lavoie reported that the Wellness Committee met last month. They are reviewing wellness services that are currently being provided at Centers in neighboring towns. Barbara is working with Lisa Holle from Storrs Pharmacy to provide medication reviews here at the Center. They will also set up medication boxes for customers. Barbara also held a caregivers meeting, and is working to develop this as a support group. She has sent a letter to local churches informing them of her services and offering to do presentations. There is information in the Sparks newsletter regarding access to free cell phones through Safelink and Assurances.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – C. Dainton distributed copies of her monthly report. She pointed out that Lisa Holle is doing monthly presentations at the Center. She reported that she has had to ask the art group to give up their classes for the month of March due to space concerns. A representative from Jorgensen is coming to the Center weekly to sell tickets, and the AARP Tax Assistance program is operating two days a week.

Senior Center Assoc. –T. Rogers asked that seniors be aware of what’s going on in Town regarding the proposed new schools project.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Advisory Committee: K. Grunwald reported that Masonicare has extended their purchase option on the Maple Rd. property, and has received support from the Town Council to make providing water to this property a high priority. C. Pellegrine has been asked circulate a petition to not have Masonicare continue to be the “preferred developer” for this project.

Wrights Way J. Adamcik reported that they did a good job of keeping the facility open during the winter months.

Juniper Hill (B. Savage); Jensen’s Park (E. Poirier): no reports.

Glen Ridge: J. Terry reported that they had a very good presentation on TRIAD.

- D. Related Town and Regional Organizations such as:
Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Resources of Eastern CT: no reports.

VII. Old Business

- A. Report of the Nominating Committee: J. Quarto reported that S. Gordon has agreed to serve for another term. Laurie Grunskie McMorrow has expressed an interest in serving on the Commission. The committee has recommended her for membership. Commission members unanimously recommended that these two individuals be added as members. They have also agreed to nominate Carol Philips, but they have been unable to reach her. J. Quarto has sent an email to the Committee on Committees requesting clarification about appointments to advisory committees.
- B. Long-Range Plan: Press Release and Follow-Up: K. Grunwald distributed a copy of an article on the long-range plan that appeared in the Willimantic Chronicle. C. Pellegrine stated that the press release has gone out, and she received a call from a reporter at the Chronicle. The article that was published did not include the press release and focused primarily on Masonicare.
- C. Triad: W. Bigl reported that he and Trish Lagassee of People's Bank made a presentation at Glen Ridge. A "Yellow Dot" program was held at the Senior Center, and approximately 50 applications were processed. He also pointed out that they will be holding a program on Purse Safety at a local supermarket.

VIII. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission

- Bev Korba from Glen Ridge reported that they have invited Barbara Lavoie to do a presentation at Glen Ridge.
- K. Grunwald reported that the Town is applying for a grant to purchase a wheelchair-accessible van for seniors and residents with disabilities.
- T. Rogers encouraged people to use www.Mansfield.patch.com.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:32AM. Next meeting: **Monday, April 11, 2011** at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center; C. Pellegrine announced that she will not be here, and Vice-Chair J. Quarto will lead the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald