

APPROVED

Commission on Aging

Minutes of the December 10, 2012 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Will Bigl (2012), Sam Gordon (2014), April Holinko (2014), Bev Korba (2014), Laurie McMorrow (2014), Don Nolan (2014), Joan Terry, (2013)
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Marilyn Gerling (Glen Ridge), Emil Poirier (Jensen's), Martina Wharton (Juniper Hill)
STAFF: Kevin Grunwald (Dir. of Human Services)
GUESTS: Lida Bilokur, Betty Jane Karnes

Minutes: The minutes of the November, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence – April shared the memos she received from Lida Bilokur regarding how committees like ours work in other communities.

Wellness Center – Kevin reported that he and Cindy Dainton had interviewed the only qualified candidate for the Social Worker position. That person withdrew her application following the interview. After some discussion, it was moved that April write a letter to the Town Council regarding the qualifications for the position stating that the Commission on Aging feels the job description should not require a licensed clinical social worker.

Kevin announced that Beth Hankins has been hired to work as the Senior Social Worker on a temporary basis until a permanent individual is hired. Beth has excellent experience in elderly services and is able to combine a temporary appointment with her established practice.

FoodShare – This program continues to go well. An additional delivery of turkey dinners was made in November to about 80 families.

Senior Center – Kevin distributed copies of the Senior Center report in Cindy's absence. He mentioned that special afternoon programs are planned for both Christmas eve and New Year's eve.

Community Information – There was discussion of ways in which we might find representation on the Commission from Wrights Way. April will contact the Wrights Way Commissioners to ask if they have a suggestion or if one of them would volunteer. Martina said Juniper Hill continues its wellness programs and they had a successful bazaar. Emile told us that Jensens had a tree lighting and carol sing recently. Marilyn Gerling reported that Glen Ridge has a number of ongoing community-building events.

New Business – Three people have applied to be members of this Commission but all three are registered Democrats so only one of them can be appointed. The two persons present (Lida Bilokur and Betty Jane Karnes) made some remarks about their interest in serving. It was decided that we would invite the third applicant (Jeanne Haas) to come to talk to us at our next meeting prior to voting. April will try to find Republicans or Independents who are interested.

April told us that our meetings will continue to be held at Juniper Hill as there is no space at the Senior Center at the time we meet.

Kevin will re-send our letter to the Transportation Committee asking for a bus shelter at the Community Center bus stop. Copies will go to Lon Hultgren and Matt Hart.

Old Business - It was agreed that our goals for this year will be as presented on the attached list. Goal #4 (making downtown Storrs senior friendly) was discussed. Joan Terry agreed to set up a meeting with Cynthia van Zelm to find out if this issue is being considered as the center progresses.

Transportation Issue – No word has been received regarding the issues we raised at this meeting in September.

Triad – Will said the senior police academy has 14 applicants and the plans are moving ahead.

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission – There were no comments.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Terry, secretary

Next Meeting: January 14

Goals for the Commission on Aging 2012-2013

1. Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for seniors with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs including changing federal benefit programs.
2. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.
3. Advocate for improvements to the local transportation system.
4. Encourage the Downtown Partnership to make the new Storrs downtown senior friendly.
5. Provide information regarding tax relief available to residents.
6. Monitor the development of an independent living/assisted living facility in Mansfield.
7. Support the hiring of a Senior Services Social Worker.
8. Support the implementation of the FoodShare program.