

MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2016

PRESENT: Will Bigl (2018) , Laurie McMorrow (2017), Bev Korba (2018), Martina Wharton (2018), Bettejane Karnes (2018), Don Nolan (2017), Nancy Trawick Smith (2017), John Riesen (2018)

ABSENT: Jean Ann Kenny, Senior Center Association- Sarah Taylor, Senior Center Supervisor- David Palmer (Juniper Hill)

STAFF: Pat Schneider, Human Service Director

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

Minutes of January 11, 2016 were reviewed and accepted as read.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: John Adamcik (Wright's Way) reports that a new tenant representative has been appointed. Judy Bigl (Jensen's) had no report.

GUESTS: Jackie Peoples- Rosemary Beecher

PAT SCHNEIDER'S REPORT: Senior Center budget will be presented Town Council on March 28, 2016. Human Service's budget will be presented on April 3, 2016 Pat is available to review this information with any interested party.

Senior Center personnel are presently full staffed.

New chairs for dining room will be delivered in 4 to 6 weeks.

The building study contract is being signed with chosen firm.

SARAH'S REPORT (given by Pat in her absence)

St. Patrick's Day luncheon attendance was almost to capacity.

Several future programs are scheduled and will be in **SPARKS**.

A Brain Health & Memory program given by JoAnne Harrison-Beecher (MS in Gerontology) is scheduled in 6 weeks.

NEW BUSINESS: Human Services grants were reviewed. Community Companion and Homemaker Services grant for \$4,000 was approved.

Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. grant for \$3,000 was approved.

A letter supporting a study of the transportation needs in the Mansfield/Willimantic area was sent to DOT Commissioner Redeker. We received an answer which stated "The Department (WRTD) has been told to prepare a formal scope of work and request funding for their review. Accreditation still to be reviewed.

PAT met with manager and staff of **WRTD** regarding report from those using their service. Their concerns include the following:

Long waits

Need for more drivers

PR problems regarding past performance

No priorities regarding needs because of Federal guidelines.

PAT will explain the need for changes in existing services to Town Council at the March 28th meeting.

LAURIE will compose letter to Council from COA to outline their concerns that the needs of the most vulnerable seniors are not being met and that services should to be expanded. Especially important is the availability of rides for medical appointments.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Next meeting will be held on April 11, 2016 at 9:30 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bev Korba, Secretary