

MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING

April 12, 2021

Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM

PRESENT: John Riesen (2021), Martina Wharton (2020), Devon Hock (2023), Wilfred Bigl, Joanne Sousa (2021)

ABSENT: Dorothea Mercier, Nancy Trawick-Smith (2020),

STAFF LIAISON MEMBERS Present: Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services; Sarah Taylor, Senior Center Supervisor, Yamilmarie Figueroa; Outreach Coordinator, Dorothy Del Valle; Administrative Service Specialist, Human Services

The minutes of March 8, 2021 were read and approved by Will Bigl, with a second by Martina Wharton.

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

PAT SCHNEIDER'S REPORT:

- Nice weather has opened up new options for different outdoor programs.
- UCONN has opened large vaccination clinic; open to the public.
- Budget process is taking place right now. Town manager presented on the budget along with Community Service and we were able to maintain our service and funding level in our department. Funds coming to be spent by 2024.
- Youth Services planning to work on offering safe programming for the youth over the summer.
- Large town grant for childcare and food are still being worked on. Started to take applications for food program.

SARAH TAYLOR'S REPORT:

- Ipads (2 chrome books and 2 Ipads) and hotspots have been received at the Senior Center and will be announcing in May Newsletter that they will be available for renting out for 2 week periods.
- Kitchen replacement equipment has been purchased.
- In May will increase Pick Up meals to once a week, each Friday. Generally brings in about 70 people for lunch.
- Going to start phased in re-opening the first week of May. Will require masks, social distancing, and cleaning and sanitizing. Everything will be by reservation so distancing can occur properly. Plan to re-evaluate operations each month.

YAMIL FIGUEROA REPORT:

- Transportation program is for ages 60 and older or any adult with disabilities. Bringing people for medical appointments, bank, pharmacy, grocery, vaccine appointments, etc. Asking people to try to schedule at least one week in advance.

Currently can only take one person at a time secondary to social distancing precautions.

- Working on outreach to make sure community members know how Yamil can support and help them.

WILL BIGL REPORT:

- Switching over for entire bus fleet to be electric.
- WRTD will be in charge of all UCONN buses and drivers.
- Concern regarding what needs the community wants and due to current pandemic situation less people are riding the bus.

Housing Representative Update:

- Rolling Hills: Will Bigl. Waiting for the sewer project to be through. Still closed, going by CDC guidelines.
- Glen Ridge: Vacant
- Juniper Hill Village: Vacant; Martina Wharton states April 20th the residents' group will be back, some of the common areas have opened up, with only 8 people per common area. Juniper Hill has had a successful vaccine clinic.
- Wrights Way: Vacant

Old Business:

- A. -Brochure Sub Committee Draft has been made. Motion to accept the At Your Fingertips Brochure as edited. Accepted by Martina Wharton and seconded by Joanne Sousa. All in favor.
 - Recommend to have brochure uploaded to the website and will have some hard copies available at the Senior Center. Discussed handing it out during one of the next big senior lunches. Will advertise on Sparks.
 - Sarah will be the contact person for any corrections needed on the brochure overtime
 - Brochure Subcommittee discharged officially with thanks. Accepted by John Riesen, seconded by Martina Wharton. All in favor.
- B. Accept proposed webpage to the town to update COA webpage. All in favor.
- C. Discussed Welcome Packet and resignation of Committee Members if missed meetings occur. John to put together something for discussion regarding Welcome Packet.
- D. No responses/interest yet regarding vacancies on the COA.

New Business:

- A. Discussed creating COA email address.
- B. Discussed sharing information regarding the COA in Mansfield Connections, or other publications.
- C. Discussed reaching out to UCONN programs to increase membership in COA.
- D. Discussion regarding Housing in Mansfield. As of now report is that there is no intention for Senior Housing at this time. Discussed reaching out to Linda Painter.
- E. Next Meeting planned for May 10, 2021, 9:30AM EST. Virtually.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Devon Hock.