

MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

September 13, 2021, Virtual at Town of Mansfield, 9:30 AM

Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM

PRESENT: John Riesen (2021), Will Bigl (2021), Martina Wharton (2023), Nancy Trawick-Smith (2023), Devon Hock (2023), Joanne Sousa (2021)

ABSENT:

STAFF LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services, Sarah Taylor: Senior Center Supervisor, Dorothy Del Valle: Administrative Service Specialist, Human Services, Yamil Figueroa Director of Transportation,

Additional Community Members Present: Beverly Gotch (Juniper Hill Representative), Laura Austin, David Palmer, David Stevens

John Riesen made a motion to accept the minutes of June 14, 2021. The notion was seconded by a council member and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- An email from Jamie Russell, regarding link to the webpage and email list. Hoping that the Charter service can resolve issues with emails. For now, Sarah will forward any correspondence.
- Email forwarded by Patricia Schneider – Recent review of our records, 4 members terms will end on Sept 2021. Members to decide if they will continue appointment on COA. Will Bigl noted plans to stay on the commission. John to reach out to members who were not present on call.

SPEAKER PRESENT:

Laura Austin who is a long time resident of Mansfield, UCONN grad, engineer and mother of two adult children who recently retired in 2018 introduced herself to the COA and is interested in becoming a Council member. Introductions to all current Council and Staff Liaison members conducted. John Riesen provided information regarding next steps in

joining the committee.

PATRICIA SCHNEIDER'S REPORT:

- The Farms to Family Program has been a hit. Two more distributions to be made with local products to serve up to 100 families.
- Food Program continues at Senior Center
- Senior Center preparing for the holidays. Will be asking for cash donations to assist as opposed to in person gifts.
- Youth Services is back to school. Recruiting for mentors for the school. After school programs going on at the middle school.
- Volunteers are required to be vaccinated and masked.
- Continuing to wait for update regarding the van delivery.

SARAH TAYLOR'S REPORT:

- September is national Senior Center month.
- Photo booth set up at Senior Center. The theme is "What does the Senior Center mean to you?"
- Basket Raffle going on. Yamil created three wonderful baskets. By coming into the center individuals will receive a ticket. The more you come in to the center, the more chances you have to win.
- There are in-person groups going on for programs and classes. The numbers are slightly smaller than in the past, but there are also hybrid and purely virtual programs.
- Trips have resumed and have been well attended so far.
- TVCCA meals have resumed approximately 8-12 people per day being served currently.
- Masks are required in the Senior Center building.
- Fresh Fridays, Holiday gatherings and Chorus, will not resume in September in person due to Covid-19 cases. This will be re evaluated on a month-to-month basis.
- Researching ideas and feasibility for Flu clinic this fall.
- No Appeals were done last year, this year we have collected

approximately 1,400 dollars so far, and plans still underway for a meal and celebrations this November.

- Senior Center Accreditation: All of the standards have been reviewed, but at this point the project is on standstill to be reviewed at a later date.

WILL BIGL, WRTD REPORT:

- Dial Ride update. Crew is committed to fixing the Dial Ride problems that were occurring in Mansfield.
- Spoke to two people from Juniper Hill – Stated they were using the buses, but it would take a long time before they could trust Dial Ride again.
- One comment was made that a bus Monitor hadn't worked in a year at one of the bus stops. Will contacted service to have it repaired.

HOUSING REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Rolling Hills (Jensen's Park): Will Bigl reported that they are still digging up the roads in Rolling Hills. Sewers are in. A picnic took place and was well attended.

Glen Ridge: Position vacant. Looking to advertise for Housing Representative in Senior Sparks.

Juniper Hill Village: Martina Wharton reported that Beverly Gotch has volunteered to represent JHV. David Palmer reported that the Annual Tag sale has been cancelled secondary to Covid-19 risks. Looking into doing a tag sale online. Having some issues with smoking on premises. Planning to schedule a vaccine clinic. Kevin O'Shea unfortunately is currently in hospice. Brenda is running food service and is the new Manager and making all sorts of positive changes.

Wrights Way: Position vacant. Looking to advertise for Housing Representative in Senior Sparks.

Old Business:

A. The COA website has been revised. As part of our charge we are

supposed to report to the town council yearly.

B. Mansfield Connections article: Joanne is reaching out to see if anyone has a synopsis of the group for the article and they will also take a picture of the group.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION:

- David Palmer : Discussed the Mansfield Academy program. The program is 2hrs a week on Thursdays for 10 weeks. Programs consists of the nuts and bolts of how Mansfield works.

New Business:

- Discussed next meeting to be scheduled on October 18, 2021 secondary to holiday. Discussed the COA's agreement to continue via zoom meetings at this time.

ADDITIONAL REPORT:

- Discussed the official election of officers to be held at the next meeting. The positions include, Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 AM. The next regular meeting is
October 18, 2021.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Devon Hock.