

The Senior Citizens Commission held their regular meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at the Senior Center at 2:45 P.M. Present at the meeting were members: Paula Friez, Diane Croxford-Walker, Maureen Johnson, Tina Giuffre, Sally Tracy and Patricia Morianos; also in attendance were, Senior Center staff Alice Hare and Seniors Inc. Representative Cheryl Udin; and Jerry Wright, Veteran's Representative.

1. Call to Order:

Ms. Friez called the meeting to order at 2:45 P.M.

2. Public Comment:

Ms. Udin updated the board on upcoming activities:

- Senior Appreciation Luncheon will be on September 24th
- Tour of Fidelco in Bloomfield
- Mystery Ride September 15th
- October 22nd-local politicians (unknown at this time who will be attending)

3. Approval of Minutes:

June 12, 2014

A motion was made by Ms. Sally Tracy, seconded by Ms. Croxford-Walker to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion unanimously passed.

4. Municipal Agent's Report

A. Food Pantry

- a. Website has been updated for specific items needed. Donations have been coming in on a regular basis. The group discussed various ways of handing out food before it expires. Suggestions included sending it to shelters, reducing requirements to qualify, etc. Ms. Friez explained that any changes to the qualifications could not be considered until Ms. Ochoa returns to work. The commission commented that Ms. Ochoa has done an excellent job on reorganizing the distribution of items from the Food Pantry. The group discussed that they will pursue avenues to advertise the Food Pantry more.
- b. Since last meeting, 5 families have visited the food pantry. There was one new application for the Food Pantry, however the applicant has not returned with required documentation.

B. Fuel Assistance

There have been no requests for fuel assistance since the last meeting. The Seniors Inc. has agreed to pay for next senior who needed fuel up to \$500.

5. Old Business

A. Budget Discussion

Ms. Friez provided the group with a list of reductions from the Senior and Social Services Budget of \$3,500 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

6. New Business

A. Jerry Wright - Veteran's Day Luncheon (November 19th)

Mr. Wright briefly spoke to the group regarding the many issues Veterans are facing today. He was recently appointed as Director of CCMC (Connecticut Corvette Military Corporation) and is involved with many programs that support the Veteran's. Mr. Wright explained that he accepts donations of goods that can be used for the Veteran's. One program in particular South Park Inn (located in Hartford), it is a homeless shelter that houses approximately 30% Veteran's. The group discussed coordinating their annual collection for Veteran's to donate to South Park Inn for the Veteran's. The facility is always looking for donations of new and gently used men's clothing, outerwear, laundry detergent, lanterns and sleeping bags. Toys and stuffed animals are not accepted. Ms. Friez will coordinate with Mr. Wright the collection of goods for the organization. She will also contact Brian Baker, the coordinator of South Park Inn and invite him to the November 19th luncheon at the Senior Center.

Additionally Mr. Wright informed the group of a bill that was introduced to the Senate, HR-5231. This bill enables veterans to have access to government surplus items for the cost of shipping and handling, to expand or start own business.

B. Next Meeting Date - December 11, 2014

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, December 11th at 2:45 p.m.

C. 9/11 Ceremony

The 9/11 ceremony will be taking place at the Fire House at 6:00 p.m. on September 11th.

Ms. Johnson shared an article regarding a program in Glastonbury that Seniors only pay half off increase of taxes. She suggested the commission request the town consider this type of program, or requesting taxes for seniors are paid twice a year. Ms. Johnson will research what the details of the Glastonbury program are.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Croxford-Walker, seconded by Ms. Morianos to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Bolduk
Board Clerk

PLEASE SEE THE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THESE MINUTES AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO.