

Draft Unapproved: November 17, 2009

To: All Commission Members

From: Rodger A. Salman – Secretary

Re: November 17, 2009 meeting

Members Present: Frank Contento, Claudia Giulietti, Donna Levine, Katherine Lofquist, Dr. James P. Morgan, Anthony Pacileo and Rodger Salman.

Members Absent: Alan Fontana and Joseph Villano.

Guest: Anthony Selmont

Staff Present: Judith Amarone

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. on November 17, 2009 on a motion by Claudia Giulietti and a second by Frank Contento. The minutes of the last meeting (September 15, 2009) were read and approved on a motion by Claudia Giulietti with a second by Frank Contento.

Director's Report:

Staff:

Arelis Adorno, who joined the senior center staff in August, has proven to be a good match for the senior community and staff alike. Her pleasant demeanor and work ethic has made the transition a smooth one and we are pleased that she accepted the position back in August replacing Richard Lewis who was with the town for the last ten years.

Transportation Update:

We are pleased to report that the Regional Ride Program funds have been reinstated. Regional Rides provides transportation to 12 towns; Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, New Haven, North Haven, North Branford, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven and Woodbridge. Cost per ride is \$2.50 each way and is available 6 days a week from 10AM to 4PM. This program is managed by the Greater New Haven Transit District and funded through the State of CT.

Flu Clinic:

A flu clinic was held by the VNA in October and held at the American Legion. Like all clinics throughout the country there was a shortage which had an effect on approximately 7 seniors who were unable to get their vaccination. However, they were connected to other clinics in the area and were able to be vaccinated.

Grant Updates: No set tentative date has been planned but we anticipate that the work will be completed sometime in December, 2009. The building, according to Judith Amarone, will be beautiful, clean and updated. While we have been out of the center during renovation it is important to note that most activities and services have continued. We were unable to complete the renovations as scheduled because of the number of problems that the contractors encountered and because of the number of change orders that were necessitated. We required change orders for new windows, drains, gutters and appliances and all required State approval. These additions were not part of the original bid.

Old Business:

The deadline for the completion of the renovated senior center has been extended to December, 2009.

New Business:

Nothing to report.

Housing:

The Housing Solution Program offers up to \$10,000. For each senior to provide for home improvement needs. To date seven have applied for this program. Four have been approved and 3 are pending approval. This program ends in March, 2010. Area senior housing communities have not opened their waiting lists. However, Bella Vista in New Haven and Davenport Dunbar in Hamden have vacancies and are accepting applications.

Public Comment: There was public comment by Anthony Selmont. Mr. Selmont is a member of the senior center and he lives in senior housing which is located behind 189 Pool Road. Mr. Selmont was distressed that the newly renovated senior center was not completed on time and he stated that many seniors felt the same. He stated that some programs were no longer offered and, in particular, Bocce was cancelled because of the construction. Judith Amarone explained the problems that occurred during construction with the asbestos removal, the plumbing problem, the termite problem, and the amount of rain experienced in August which delayed roof construction. Mr. Selmont pointed out that most programs were continued during construction and a great effort was made to keep the senior center programs running. He pointed out that while other departments were closed down during their construction period it was important to realize that efforts were successfully made to keep the senior center open in other locations. Mr. Selmont in no way was critical of the senior center personal but he felt that if the contract was so structured as to call for a penalty then the contractor should be held responsible and penalized if warranted.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 P.M. on a motion by Rodger Salman and a second by Claudia Giulietti. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. We anticipate that this meeting will be held in the meeting room of the newly renovated Senior Center.