

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES, March 24, 2015, Approved on May 14, 2015

Draft unapproved: March 24, 2015, Approved May 14, 2015

To: All Commission on Aging Members

Re: March 24, 2015 Meeting

Members Present: Claudia Giulietti, Fran Bartlett, Joseph P. Villano, Donna Levine, Katherine Lofquist, Frank Contento, Sr, Deacon Ronnie Bicknell

Members Absent: Alan Fontana

Guests: None

Staff Present: Judith Amarone, Director, North Haven Senior Center

- Maggie Maiden, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, on a motion by Claudia Giulietti and a second by Deacon Ronnie Bicknell. The minutes of our last meeting on January 20, 2015 were approved on a motion by Donna Levine and a second by Joseph P. Villano.

March 24, 2015

Commission on Aging

Directors Report

Senior Center

Dessert is always an attraction at the Center and on January 22 the Center celebrated "National Blonde Brownie Day" all in attendance were served a blonde brownie sundae and while this is a low cost program it functions best for seniors who come to the Center for socialization unlike many others who come for organized activities such as Yoga, Oil Painting, and games such as Mahjongg

The Center welcomes in new members with a Welcome Breakfast every quarter by invitation. The premise of the breakfast is to make personal contact with new members breaking down the barriers that occur when anyone is in a new and unfamiliar environment. Along with meeting me personally, new members are given a tour of the Center and an overview of activities from a senior's perspective which the Center is fortunate to have two wonderful volunteers who spend the morning with the new members. While this is titled Welcome Breakfast all members of the Center are welcome to attend in which many do creating a warm friendly place for all who participate.

Super Bowl Sunday Lunch scheduled for January 30 was held on February 6 due to the inclement weather. While it was planned we would hold a contest to see which team was going to be the Super Bowl Champions this changed since the luncheon was held a week later. All in attendance were served appetizers, meatball subs, dessert, and while it wasn't super bowl everyone enjoyed the food along with being together on another cold winter day.

Valentine's Breakfast was held on February 11. Seniors enjoyed homemade waffles with strawberry and whipped cream topping, sausage, hash browns, orange juice, coffee and tea and as always all in attendance welcomed spending time eating a homemade breakfast as well as gathering with friends.

Judy's Famous Louisiana Bread Pudding was held on February 20. Seniors gathered around and observed how to make a popular dessert learned from the New Orleans School of Cooking; Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce. For many it was the first time they ate bread pudding and others came to watch out of curiosity. It was a successful cooking demonstration and all in attendance left with a recipe and an additional serving. The next demonstration is scheduled for March where members will have the opportunity to learn how to make the famous Anne Sullivan's famous Irish Soda Bread. National Cherry Pie Day was also held on February 20 in honor of President's Day.

Flashback Wednesday, February 25, was a great event and titled it "Prince Spaghetti Day". This event was free to the first 60 residents and yes there was a full house and a few extra residents came at the last moment. Meatballs, spaghetti, roll and of course dessert was served and all in attendance stayed longer than expected sitting and chatting. I was a fun night for all.

Rummikub began on Wednesday, March 4, requested by members. To date there are twelve members playing and several of them are new members.

Nutritional Program: Eat Well Be Happy; began on March 18. This six week program is designed for adults that will learn about portion control, label reading, and healthy cooking among other topics. Skills gained may keep weight down and keep one healthy. Due to community support of Shop Rite, of East Haven, this program is free to all North Haven seniors.

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon was held on Tuesday, March 17. Seniors enjoyed a traditional holiday lunch of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots; lunch was prepared by Zandri's. Homemade Irish Soda Bread was served along with lunch. All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the event. A round of applause to the volunteers Nick Mastroianni and Arlene Herzog, as well as staff; Maggie Maiden and Ellen McDonald for assisting with serving and cleaning up after the event.

Staff

Arelis Rodriquez, full time bus driver, took a position at the Agency on Aging as a Care Manager Apprentice. Her last day was March 20, 2015. To date the position has been posted and applications are coming in and are being sorted in preparation of calling applicants in for an interview.

In the absence of a driver I compiled a list of options for the seniors and am also working with Greater New Haven Transit District for more available options. I have contacted the senior members who use the bus for medical appointments on a regular basis getting them connected with the transit district along with personally discussing the options that are listed in this month's report.

Transportation Options for North Haven Seniors

American Cancer Society -Transportation to Cancer treatment destinations throughout CT. No Charge, Four Day Notice in Advance is Required, Ambulate on their Own

1-800-227-2345

DAV-Disabled American Vets-Non-emergency Transportation to VA Hospital; West Haven. No Charge, Appointments Can be made Months in advance otherwise a Four Day Notice is Required. Ambulate on their Own.

203-937-3420

Greater New Haven Transportation-Non-emergency Medical Transportation and Shopping, Errands, Etc. Membership for the *Regional Rides or Dial-A-Ride* program is open to any individual currently residing in one of the member towns and is over the age of 60 or has a disability. Membership for ADA service is open to all persons whose temporary or permanent disability prevents them from using the regular fixed route transportation system, buses operated by CT Transit. Fee \$3 per one way

203-288-6282

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers-Non-emergency Transportation and Escort to Doctor Visits; age 60+ Must be Ambulatory. No Charge

203-230-8994

Mary Wade Home-Non-emergency Medical Transportation to Doctors Etc. from 8:30am-4:30 pm Monday – Friday. Weekend Rides for Shopping, Church, Etc. from 10am- 2pm Participants must not be on Medicaid and have to be 60 + Years and Older

203-562-7222

LogistiCare -Non-emergency Medical Transportation For Husky/Medicaid Participants. Car Service as well as Wheelchairs. Must be Under 70 Years of Age. Must Provide Medicaid Card Number when Making Appointments.

1-888-248-9895

Respectfully submitted;

Judy Amarone

Old Business:

Some Commission members along with Judy Amarone attended the public meeting held at the Recreation Center on January 26, for the proposed assisted living facility (Maplewoods) being built at the site formerly known as Clintonville Manor. They reported there was a great turnout for this meeting and

Claudia Giulietti let the Commission know the Planning and Zoning Meeting went well too for this facility. Planning and Zoning requested Maplewoods be built with two floors and not to exceed 90 units.

The first phase of the State Street apartments has been completed and now available for rent. Judy Amarone was asked if she has received any phone calls about the apartments, and at this time she has not. There was some discussion on the eight units that were presented as "affordable housing" and the conclusion that they are affordable by the price being lower than the other apartments.

The project at Temple Pines to add more housing was also discussed briefly; this project may not be completed until the year of 2017.

New Business:

Claudia Giulietti led congratulations to Deacon Ronnie Bicknell and Fran Bartlett for their appointment as members to the Commission on Aging. Also, congratulations to Donna Levine and Katherine Lofquist who were reappointed for another 2 year term. Mr. Rodger Salman, who has served on the Commission for many years, recently resigned in February. Mr. Salman will be invited to the next meeting in May, so the Commission can thank him in person for his many years of service.

The next meeting in May was changed from May 19 to May 12; due to a few Commission members who will be working the Referendum that night.

Housing:

There are no open lists for Housing at this time.

Public Comment: None

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. on a motion by Claudia Giulietti and a second by Fran Bartlett. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Antonio's Pizza Restaurant, 1899 Hartford Turnpike, North Haven. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, please contact the Senior Center at 203-239-5432.