

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES, APPROVED March 15, 2016 MEETING

Draft unapproved: January 19, 2016 minutes approved March 15, 2016

To: All Commission on Aging Members

Re: January 19, 2016 Meeting

Members Present: Claudia Giuliatti, Fran Bartlett, Donna Levine, Joseph P. Villano, Alan Fontana, Deacon Ronnie Bicknell, Kimberly Yates Carew, Frank Contento

Members Absent: Ameer Lunn

Guests: First Selectman Michael Freda, Arlene Herzog, Senior Center Café Manager

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

- Ellen McDonald, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, on a motion by Claudia Giuliatti. Guest First Selectman Michael Freda requested a moment of silence to honor former Commission member Kay Lofquist who recently passed.

Commission Secretary Frank Contento resigned his position citing personal reasons.

Michael Freda attended this meeting to oversee nominations and elections of Commission members as follows:

Kim Yates Carew nominated by the Board of Selectman to serve on the Commission, seconded by Claudia Giuliatti.

Claudia Giuliatti was nominated as Chairperson by Fran Bartlett, seconded by Joseph Villano, third by Alan Fontana.

Joseph Villano was nominated as Vice-Chairperson by Claudia Giuliatti, seconded by Fran Bartlett.

Fran Bartlett was nominated as Secretary by Frank Contento, seconded by Donna Levine.

First Selectman Michael Freda swore in all of the nominees to their elected positions.

The minutes of our last meeting on November 17, 2015 were approved on a motion by Claudia Giuliatti and a second by Fran Bartlett with two corrections noted with an asterisk.

Directors Report

December 2- Senior to Senior Breakfast was held at North Haven High school. This annual event is always enjoyed by all. Senior students invite seniors in the community for breakfast and are entertained with songs sung by the preschool children as well as the high school chorus.

December 4- Christmas Party was held at Zandri's Stillwood Inn. Seniors had a choice of Chicken Francais, Stuffed Filet of Sole or Prime Rib. In attendance were 343 seniors; 200 of them were from North Haven and the others from Cheshire and Wallingford. Seniors danced to the band Bogie Boys and there wasn't a space on the dance floor. A great event stated by all that started off the Holiday Season.

December 8- Hanukkah Breakfast was held on a traditional breakfast was served; challah French toast, jelly donuts and homemade potato pancakes, coffee, tea and orange juice was served.

December 9- Annual Trees of Hope trip to the Maritime Center in New Haven. Over 100 individuals, organizations and groups in the community donate fully decorated trees, wreaths, are raffled off to lucky winners and other holiday décor sold in their holiday boutique. All proceeds realized support the mission of the house. In years past members of the Center supported this fundraiser with donating a decorated tree however this year seniors chose to make table holiday runners (35) and they were sold with proceeds supporting the cause. All in attendance joined together at the Greek Olive on Long Wharf. Another outing that all enjoyed.

December 10- Military Whist and Dessert Party- Seniors continue to enjoy playing this popular card game and due to its popularity a tournament will be held monthly.

December 23- Lunch and A Movie; Miracle on 34th Street was a popular event. Seniors gathered together for homemade chicken soup, a sandwich, dessert and beverage.

December 30-Bring In the New Year was held on December 30 Celebrating New Year's Eve as well as the Centers' first Ugly Sweater Contest. Favorite tunes were played on the piano by entertainer Sal Anastasio. At 12 noon toasts were had and everyone sang Auld Lang Syne. When the song was over seniors starting hugging and clapping as they wished each other Happy New Year. Immediately following seniors were served a catered meal from Zandri's; ; ziti, Yankee Pot Roast, green beans and carrots, mashed potatoes, rolls and butter, assorted soda and dessert.

January 14- Re-gifting Auction has become an annual event for the Center and one that is enjoyed by all. Seniors as well as staff bring in their gifts and gently used treasures then actioned off by me. Bids are started at fifty cent and have gone to the highest bidder of twenty dollars. Immediately following the auction a special luncheon, "New Year Cookout". This program allowed all to clean out the clutter as well as the Centers freezer.

Upcoming

January 21, Ask an Attorney – free fifteen minute consultations with Attorney Ann and Christine Farrell.

January 28, Money-Gami(Origami) which became very popular at the Center. Staff made star ornaments out of one dollar bills taught to all by Ellen McDonald, secretary and seniors asked if we would hold a class so they could learn as well. The only supplies needed are new one dollar bills and no cost for all interested parties.

Socks for Soles- In December I was at a Regional Human Service Council meeting where my peers from surrounding towns were discussing the needs of their communities. In our discussion we recognized that all the towns are in need of more affordable housing for seniors and families alike, and how difficult it is for those without housing to get a bed at a homeless shelter. This made me think of how I dislike the cold weather and even more so, cold feet. While I/we don't have the means to build more affordable housing for all, I/we can make a small difference for someone who has no socks.

For a homeless person, being without socks, especially in the cold season, may lead to all sorts of foot ailments, blisters, fungus and frostbite. In extreme cases, blood poisoning, and deep bone infections can result. New socks can even be more important than food since many homeless people have access to soup kitchens and pantries.

Many of us donate our old clothes however for me socks are never part of the donation.

Since socks often have holes in them and get thrown out, many homeless never get new/or old socks. A clothes distribution center may provide shirts, sweaters, and coats but never socks.

In January I invited all members an opportunity to help by donating new socks that will be brought to local homeless shelters. My goal is to continue to collect socks year round helping those that are in need of socks for warmth, comfort, and to aide a person dressed properly when looking for employment.

Old Business:

Michael Freda is seeking an opinion on assembling an exploratory committee to research a potential tax freeze for seniors.

Mr. Freda mentioned that the property at Temple Pines is to be developed as senior housing and the property formerly known as Clintonville Manor is still scheduled to be senior housing built by private developer as previously discussed.

Arlene Herzog, Center Café Manager, was invited after discussion about the Center's lunch service at the November 2015 Commission meeting.

New Business:

Arlene was here to discuss the Center lunch program run by LifeBridge that contracts Lindley Foods. Arlene feels that the quality of the food served could be improved and though she keeps daily records of quality issues and comments, quality is still lacking. Arlene feels if the quality improves, attendance will improve. There are many residents that are eligible for the program that don't participate. Judy Amarone said that the program is funded by Title 3 through the Agency on Aging. The Agency on Aging monitors wasted meals while the meals are offered for a donation, making it affordable to all seniors. It seems that Title 3 will also contract with restaurants, like the Greek Olive in New Haven, in the future.

After questions and discussion, Alan Fontana suggested the Commission draft a letter to LifeBridge to express concerns over quality of the lunches, with copies to Lindley Foods and the Agency on Aging.

Ron Bicknell told the Commission that Judy Amarone was a guest speaker at a Social Action Committee meeting at St. Barnabus Church to speak about the services available to seniors through the Town and at the Senior Center, lunch and transportation, for example. Judy suggests Deacon Ronnie Bicknell encourage area churches to share information through their bulletins. Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers also offer transportation and companion visits.

Kim Carew, new Commission member, is a language arts consultant now working at Clintonville School and invites seniors to read or be read to by students through her Senior Literacy Volunteer program. Kim thanked Judy for supporting her program by advertising and said through word of mouth two schools have contacted her about starting this program.

Housing:

Woods Edge and Oakview are keeping their lists open. Donna Levine said that Tower One in New Haven has openings. Tower East is also available, some are assisted living units and others are "classic" apartments.

Public Comment: None

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. on a motion by Claudia Giullietti and a second by Frank Contento. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at 189 Pool Road, North Haven. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, please contact the Senior Center at 203-239-5432.