

COMMISSION ON AGING
Minutes
March 4, 2013

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Peggy Anderson, Bruce Lorentzen, Don Gumaer, and Laura Smits; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty and Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman; and Dial-A-Ride Driver Gordon Green.

Helen convened the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

February Minutes: Minutes were approved by consensus.

SWACC: The February Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Transportation: Gordon distributed his February trips report plus the annual summary of trips for 2012. Trips were down in February, mostly due to inclement weather and weather-related cancellations. Charlene speculated that trips may also be down due to younger seniors participating in programs who are able to drive themselves—a positive development. Gordon reported that the van seat will be replaced shortly. He also mentioned that the van is working much better after a recent re-alignment.

Social Services Report: Charlene reported that Michelle Albright, the new Director for Children and Youth Services, has assumed some of the family and child caseload, although Charlene's client list is still a challenge. Her biggest concern is the seniors who are reluctant to accept help, sometimes resulting in emergency or crisis situations. The town's first responders have been very helpful and are collaborating with Charlene to keep this vulnerable population safe. In light of dwindling state and outside philanthropic funding for Social Services, Charlene emphasized how lucky Weston is to have so many volunteers and donors, who have stepped up to fill this funding gap. Helen asked if there was any way the Commission could help directly. Charlene will think about the idea and report back to the Commission next month.

Senior Center Director Report: Wendy reported that she and Pam continue to plan the Car Show and have finalized a date with the schools for Sunday, September 22, 2013, with a rain date of September 29th. The goal is to again raise significant funds for the Center. Now that the Center will not be moving to the North House in the near term, discussion ensued about

how to use the funds. Helen suggested that we have some brainstorming sessions, with the Friends and the Commission, as well as seniors who regularly use the Center. Helen raised the idea of ways to publicize Center activities, including “Senior Center 2.0”, and the possibility of finding a way to inexpensively “colorize” the newsletter. More on this at a future date.

Friends of the Senior Center: Bruce reported for the Friends and reminded everyone to attend and spread the word about the Life Styles Fair on Saturday, March 23rd from 10:30-2:30 in the Norfield Parish Hall. They are also working on additional ways to raise funds.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits