

COMMISSION ON AGING
APRIL MEETING
04/06/09

MINUTES

Commission members present: Ernie Albin, Louellen Bartholomae, Terry Hulley, Peggy Anderson, Sandy O'Brien, Lois Miller, Helen de Keijzer. Also present: Weston Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman, Senior Center Director Jennifer Ruddy and Program Coordinator Krista Hayward, SWCAA liason Meta Schroeter, and Friends of the Senior Center Nancy McCormick.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miller at 9:25 a.m. Member O'Brien reported there were no minutes for the March meeting. The March meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Commission unanimously approved the February minutes as written.

Senior Center –

Jen attended the Aging in America National Conference in Las Vegas last month. She did not have anything to report.

The Senior Center newsletter provides information about all current activities at the Center: book groups, trips, yoga and art classes, and the programs at the Senior Luncheon. Approximately 60 people attend the Senior Luncheon each week.

Peggy Anderson, the Commission's representative to The Domestic Violence Task Force, arranged for a member of the Task Force to speak about Senior Abuse at the April 22nd Senior Luncheon.

The computer classes at the Center are going well. The classes are funded by a grant from The Weston Ed. Foundation. A high school student is paid \$20.00 an hour to teach the classes. Three people attend (there are three computers at the Center), twice a week for six weeks.

Jen reported 25% of funding for the Center comes from community organizations. The balance is provided by the Town of Weston.

Social Services –

Charlene reported that until now her caseload for financial assistance was the younger Weston residents. Recently however, Weston Seniors on fixed incomes, or dependent on dividend checks etc., have requested help. Operation Fuel, and the Warm Up Fund are a couple of community organizations that have helped the elderly cope with the current economic crises.

ITN, the organization designed to provide dignified transportation for older people, will present an informational meeting in Weston sometime in May.

LINKS, connections to independent living, is looking for a representative from Weston to be on its steering committee. Jen will announce this in the next Senior Center newsletter asking for a volunteer. Weston cannot do LINKS alone. It must hook up with Westport if it wants to be part of this new community organization.

Weston Police Sgt. Carl Filsinger is in favor of having a Yellow Dot Program, and a Triad Program in Weston. All meds, medical history are written on a file card. Yellow dot is on fridge, or on car. In case of emergency the police know the information they need is there. If Weston Seniors are willing, the programs could be implemented immediately. It was suggested Sgt. Filsinger speak about the programs at the Senior luncheon.

The tenant living at the Iva Moore Cottage was laid off from her job. The rent has been reduced until she finds employment. The mold issue has been resolved.

Friends of the Senior Center-

Nancy reported that she is working on getting the 501C3.

She is checking with other Senior Centers to see how they operate. In some Centers the Friends decide what programs should be offered. In other Centers the Friends determine how the money they raise is used, rather than simply providing supplemental financial support.

The Commission must decide how it wants the Friends of the Weston Senior Center to operate. A special meeting will be held on Monday, May 18th, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the role the Friends will play at the Weston Senior Center.

Senior Directory –

Helen de Keijzer suggested that the May 18th meeting include discussion of the Senior Directory she is publishing for the Commission. The Commission members agreed.

SWCCA –

Meta gave out two pamphlets from PCSW (Permanent Commission on the Status of Women) in Ct. along with several articles regarding priority issues for the State legislature on Financial Security and Women's Health.

Meta has signed up for Medicare SWCCA training every Wednesday in April. (The Medicare training for a SWCCA CHOICES Consultant requires 4 hours volunteer work a month).

Two informational programs from SWCCA are scheduled for the Senior Luncheon in May. No dates have been set.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. with the unanimous approval of the Commission members.