

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

December 1, 2014*

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Nina Daniel, Laura Smits, Peg Anderson, and Don Gumaer; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty; Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; Social Services Director Charlene Chiang Hillman; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeder and Gordon, Dial-A-Ride. Guests: Woody Bliss and Monica Wheeler from the Westport/Weston Health District.

Meeting convened at 9:15.

Minutes: The November minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.

SWCAA: Meta reported that SWCAA's last meeting was on November 12th at Springhill, an assisted living facility in Trumbull. SWCAA is preparing to move into their new headquarters in Bridgeport on December 8th. The makeup of the advisory board will remain the same as last year. There are many changes for Medicare Part D in 2015. There was a discussion about credentials of speakers for senior centers and how to differentiate between educational speakers and those who have a business and are interested in selling something to seniors.

Dial-A-Ride: Gordon stated that he did not have a report this month. Helen asked that he prepare a year-to-year comparison report of ridership for our next meeting in January.

Social Services Director: Charlene stated that her department is in the midst of the holiday giving period. 60 Thanksgiving baskets were put together by St. Francis, Norfield, the Weston Girls Scouts and the Weston Young Women's League for distribution to families in need. The Kiwanis and Emmanuel Church are gathering food and gifts for Christmas baskets, which will include a Stop & Shop gift card to purchase a holiday meal. Fuel sign-ups are underway and running smoothly under the new direction of ABCD.

Senior Center Director: Wendy reported that the construction is almost finished on the facility expansion; they are finishing up ceiling modifications, bathrooms, etc. There was a discussion about the cost of new needs and funding sources. Wendy stated that the cost for furniture and other necessary equipment for the center will be about \$39,000 overall. Nina stated that the Friends have authorized \$10,000 for the project. Woody stated that there is also money available in the Morehouse Elderly Assistance Fund that can be requested via the Board of Selectmen. This fund, intended for the benefit of Weston seniors, currently has approximately \$150,000. Discussion ensued. Helen suggested that the Commission recommend the expenditure of \$10,000 from the Fund. After further deliberation, Peg Anderson suggested that the Commission recommend to the Board of Selectmen the expenditure of \$20,000 from the Morehouse Elderly Assistance Fund to help pay for costs associated with the expansion of the Senior Center. Peg's recommendation was approved 4 to 1 and Helen will send it on to the Selectmen for their consideration. The difference in funding will be made up by the Friends, who will contribute another \$10,000 for a total of \$20,000.

New Name: Helen checked that there was consensus among Commissioners and staff on the idea that “The Hub” will be more of a nickname than a completely new name for the Center and that “Weston Senior Activities Center” will be incorporated into a new logo design and will continue to be used along with The Hub in Center communications such as in the newsletter. She noted that First Selectman Gayle Weinstein has asked to review the name modification. Helen hopes that we will be able to develop a Center website down the road.

Other Business: Helen and Pam met with a source that is interested in coming to a senior lunch to help people decipher their electric bills and understand their electric supplier options. There was a discussion about having speakers who were neutral and not involved with a related product. Woody offered to contact a friend of his who works for the state to come and talk about utilities who would be unbiased.

Since the meeting room was needed for a scheduled Medicare consultation, Monica Wheeler was asked and agreed to give a report about Westport Weston Health District activities at the January meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits

**As amended on January 5, 2015 during the regular Commission meeting.*