

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

April 3, 2017

Present: Commission members Bruce Lorentzen, Don Gumaer, Peggy Anderson, Allison Lisbon and Dale Robinson; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty, Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman, Dial-a-Ride Gordon Green, First Selection Nina Daniel and guests Steve Thomas and Jane Hutchinson.

Meeting convened at 9:19 a.m.

Minutes: March minutes were approved by consensus.

Meta Schroeter, SWCAA liaison was absent and will share her notes from the March meeting during May Commission meeting.

Dial-a-Ride: Gordon distributed his monthly report with March activity down due to weather and the center being closed often. Gordon stated that the new buses are getting better mileage and are still a pleasure to drive.

Weston Social Services: Charlene reported that her office is busy helping seniors with their tax preparation. She also stated that there are many calls coming in from seniors new to Weston seeking information about what's available for them. EMS is also getting many similar calls for the same question. Charlene is trying to help the EMS by returning some of the calls with questions left on the EMS call line.

Nina continued to share information about the high number of people (at present 56 seniors) that are on the abatement program that total \$500,000.00. She would like to see more people taking advantage of the other two programs that require revenue (eventually) be recuperated by the town. Each abatement averages about \$10,000.00. If the town could reduce the full abatement by \$100,000.00 the senior center might see a great deal of money for improvements and added programs from the town budget.

Weston Senior Activities Center: Wendy discussed possible sponsorship ideas for the upcoming Car Show on September 24th. She thought about creating a preferred list of local businesses that would be charged a small amount of money (perhaps \$50.00) to be added to the list and appear in the program.

Nina invited and introduced Mr. Steve Thomas, a local home repair renovation businessman. Nina and Steve talked about creating a list of pre-approved local business people who charge a fair price for their services or offer a reduced cost to seniors looking for someone to do home repairs or who need a painter, electrician or plumber.

Monica Wheeler from the Health Department couldn't come to the meeting but sent a reminder to the board that the Live Well program will be offered at the Health Department on May 7th.

Friends of Weston Senior Activities Center:

Bruce discussed that the “Friends” support only the Weston Senior Center to help with the costs of some of the programs, activities, special transportation and offering more functions.

He also shared that Margarita Garces-Shapiro has now joined the board of the “Friends”.

In closing, Nina added that she hopes each commission member will take away a plan/focus from each meeting to think about or act on until we meet again.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Gumaer

Approved: 5-1-17