

COMMISSION ON AGING
Minutes

October 7, 2013

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Don Gumaer, Laura Smits, Peg Anderson, Margarita Shapiro, and Nina Daniel; Weston Senior Activities Center Director Wendy Petty and Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman; Dial-A-Ride Driver Gordon Green; and SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter.

Helen convened the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes for the July 8th meeting and the September 9th meeting were approved by consensus.

SWCAA: Meta reported that the last meeting was held on September 11, 2013 at the Lapham Center in New Canaan. Pat Knebel stated that there was a slow-down in the amount of grant money available at both the state and the federal level. There was a presentation made by the head of the Wellness Pilot Program that focused on monitoring services as more people age at home. The program allows a nurse with an iPad to monitor patients via the Internet and Skype. There are 15 pilot members: Patients must pay a fee of \$300 dollars per person and have access to cable and the internet. New Canaan has had great success and plans to expand the program. The program serves seniors 65+ who do not have chronic diseases.

Transportation: Gordon stated that things are going smoothly; ridership is up. Gordon is concerned, however, because many people have doctors in Fairfield, which is beyond his range and would add significantly to miles driven. Discussion ensued about the issue and other transportation options available in the area, including ITN and the RSVP program.

Social Services Report: Charlene reported that as of July 1st, she has 7 new senior cases, but they do not have financial needs. She has seen an increase in blended families with many more adult children and grandchildren moving in with seniors. She is beginning to work on this season's fuel assistance program. Helen suggested that a regular column in the newsletter on various topics, including ways to help seniors organize their homes for safety and avoid the danger of scammers, could be helpful in periodically reminding and updating people about important information. Pam mentioned that she has already included some of this information in prior newsletters.

Senior Center Director Report: Wendy reported that any potential Center move to Emmanuel's Parish Hall would not happen until the summer of 2014 at the earliest. Wendy reported that the Car Show raised over \$20,000 for the Center, \$9,000 of which was earned at the gate, thanks in part to the enthusiasm demonstrated by Meta and her friend manning the ticket table. The date for next year is tentatively the third week in September.

Pam and Wendy reviewed the list of suggested new names for the Center. After a lively discussion, the group decided that of those submitted they thought The Hub and The Commons were the best. It was also decided to keep the contest open, since the Center's move is on hold allowing people more time to come up with additional ideas. Pam went over some of the upcoming programs including the November 21st trip to the Culinary Institute in New York and a paper Mache class taught by Liz Ward.

Programs: There was a discussion about what kind of new programs people would like to see in addition to those already in the works and it was suggested that people in Weston were more interested in trips and other entertainment options than in lectures.

Preliminary Budget Discussion: Noting the Commission's long-range goal of having a more full time Center in Weston, Helen asked for opinions about requesting a significant expansion of hours for Pam and Wendy in the upcoming budget process. It was suggested that, especially with current limits on parking, we wait until a facility move (or a meaningful expansion of access) to have the Center open on Fridays. Discussion ensued.

Friends of the Senior Center: Nina told the group that the Friends are co-sponsors with the Friends of the Library of the *New Yorker* magazine discussion series on Tuesdays at the library—which due to its popularity, has been extended. The Friends of the Senior Center will have their board meeting on October 16th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss programming for the upcoming year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits