

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 13 2023
SENIOR CENTER AND ZOOM

Minutes

Present: Chairperson Dr. Eric Rosenberg, Commission members Jean Sundstrom, Sali Cosford Parker, Shelly Grendzinski, Carol McLaughlin and Bonnie Berkovich
Also in attendance: Town Council member Alison Walck

Call To Order

Dr. Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Sundstrom, seconded by Ms. McLaughlin to adopt the agenda. Voted (6-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 9, 2023 by Ms. Cosford Parker, seconded by Ms. Berkovich. Voted (6-0)

Public Comment

None

Announcements from Chair

Dr. Rosenberg encouraged members to inform him of any particular COA projects or tasks they would be interested on taking on.

He also announced that Ms. Sundstrom is submitting her resignation, effective May 1, 2023.

Senior Services Report

Ms. Ewing reported the Senior Center's attendance was 218, which does not include transportation or travel trips. There are four people on the Meals on Wheels waiting list. All have been informed that there will be three slots opening soon. She highlighted some successful recent activities and collaborations with the library. She also announced that there has been a significant increase in rides by the senior van, which could have been in part a direct result from the announcement placed in the Rivereast News Bulletin. She has placed new regulations and has changed the van's schedule to Monday through Thursday 10:30 am-3:30 pm, in order for the program to run more efficiently and allow some time for medical trips as well. Ms. Ewing also asked commission members to write letters of support for The River Valley Transit grant, which would add more transportation for the disabled and elders. She has been working with the Lions Club to hold a public event sometime in June featuring a speaker from the Americans With Disabilities Coalition of Connecticut, regarding assisted devices for people of all ages with visual problems. She also expressed appreciation to the Town Council for the touchless sinks and toilets that have been installed.

Old Business

Strategic Planning process: Ms. Cosford Parker presented her proposed 2023-2024 Strategic Plan. During careful discussion of the lengthy document, Ms. McLaughlin made a motion to hold a special meeting to discuss and finalize the strategic plan at the Senior Center on April 27th at 10:00 am. Ms. Sundstrom seconded the motion. Voted (6-0).

Reports from Housing, Transportation and Health & Wellness Sub-Committees.

Housing: Dr. Rosenberg announced that 23 people have signed up to attend the ADU and home renovation presentation on April 15, 2023. Ms. McLaughlin will fill COA tote bags with informational packets for the attendees.

Transportation: Ms. Sundstrom and Ms. Ewing have been gathering information on options to determine how to proceed in supporting the need for medical transportation. Options include: the Senior Center organizing and running the service, working with a non-profit company UR Community Cares that would act as a “matchmaker” between volunteers and those who are in need, or reaching out to already existing organizations in the community for help, such as, the Lions or Rotary clubs and local churches. River Valley Transit could possibly secure a grant to run the service.

Health & Wellness: Ms. Ewing stated that there was a low attendance at the last collaborative meeting with other town departments to improve citizens’ health and wellness. The meeting continues to coordinate promotion of the town departments’ activities for seniors.

Housing Authority Report: Ms. Grendzinski reported that David Schumacher, Director of Housing Authority, has passed his courses. There are currently three apartments available in senior housing. The Lions Club has donated a couple of picnic tables. Ms. Ewing spoke about two events that will be held at both Chatham Acres and Bellwood Court to inform residents of what type of services are available at the Sr. Center and to them.

Budget: Dr. Rosenberg defended the Commission on Aging budget request at the Finance Committee public hearing on March 23. Currently, the commission has spent \$802.00 of the \$1200.00 budget.

Mailing and Contact List: Dr. Rosenberg and Ms. Cosford Parker have been working the letter for the mailing. He has been working with Jeff Jylkka, Finance Director to generate a complete contact list.

Communications Plan: Ms. Cosford Parker presented a plan which highlights an outreach to others both within and outside of the local community.

Alternative Member of COA: The Town Council has approved two alternative spots on the Commission of Aging beginning approximately May 1, 2023. With Ms. Sundstrom’s resignation, there will be one regular and two alternate positions to be filled.

New Business

Dr. Rosenberg presented information from online research and a meeting with the UR Community Cares Executive Director and Ms. Ewing. The COA discussed how to decide whether to promote the organization in East Hampton, through advertising and fundraising. Ms. McLaughlin suggested the commission to invite the director of the company to speak at the next meeting to better understand the company’s concepts. She will coordinate a date with the director.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Maynard
Recording Clerk