

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner Earl Temchin.

Members present: Ben Cammuso, Marlene Carbone, Marjorie Chase, Susan Locks, Lynn Maschi, Sandra Micalizzi, Guss Nevelos, Michael Rossi and Earl Temchin.

Commissioner Ben Cammuso led the **Pledge of Allegiance** to the American Flag.

The minutes of the January 7, 2010 meeting were presented to the Commission. Guss Nevelos remarked that a correction was in order to the effect that the motion to adjourn to Executive Session was seconded by Marjorie Chase, not by himself as recorded, since he was not in attendance. A motion was made by Michael Rossi to accept the minutes as presented with the correction; seconded by Marjorie Chase; all were in favor.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Commissioner/Treasurer Susan Locks reporting that of the FY 2009/2010 \$508,775. revised budget, (which includes \$43,766 in Transfers/Adjustments), \$285,890.73 (61.0%) has been expended; \$24,348.30 remains encumbered, leaving \$198,535.97. It was noted that the third quarter payment of the Matching Grant has been received and an appropriation request has been submitted. These funds must be used exclusively for transportation. Tires, oil and fluids will be purchased. Michael Rossi inquired as to price of gasoline. Mr. Verderame informed that all our vehicles fill up at the town garage, at the Town's contracted price per gallon, which is locked in. The Executive Director receives a monthly usage statement. A motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Marlene Carbone; all were in favor.

Senior Fair: At the invitation of the Commission, Nancy Frede of the Record Journal gave a presentation on a proposed "Senior Fair", entitled "Life Begins at 50". Similar events have been held at other senior centers, including Wallingford. Ms. Frede organizes a variety of events, with a goal of being "turn-key", not requiring the staff involvement in procuring participants, setting up booths, workshops, etc. She stressed an educational component. She distributed several pieces of literature and advertising. The event would be free to seniors and caregivers. Sponsors/exhibitors would be charged between \$250. to \$1500. Ms. Frede addressed several logistic issues.

A number of concerns and questions were raised concerning the Record Journal's involvement, the organizations and vendors that would be invited to participate, and the marketing direction. Mr. Temchin expressed concern that Ms. Frede specifically used the word "marketing" several times. If the vendors are paying – does the event primarily benefit the vendors or the seniors? Marlene Carbone asked how it would affect the regular day; the response was that all activities for the day would be cancelled. Sandra Micalizzi inquired that in this market – at this price point – would sufficient vendors participate? And where does the money go? Ms. Frede replied that it is revenue event for the Record Journal. Michael Rossi specifically asked what benefit the Center would gain, and the reply was basically the rental fee.

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Mr. Temchin stated that the reported purpose is that all vendors would provide information for our members. This is a public facility. This Commission is charged as a door-keeper, representing the Town of Southington, and cannot and will not permit events with a commercial purpose.

Calendar House member Cliff Snow asked if there were any similar events scheduled that the Commissioners and Membership could visit to observe. Ms. Frede said there were not any in the near future. Mr. Temchin thanked Ms. Frede for her presentation. Ms. Frede thanked the Commissioners and left the meeting.

Executive Director Robert Verderame presented the **Director's and Program Coordinator's Report for January 2010**. Mr. Verderame noted that the Dial-A-Ride Program provided 721 one-way rides, with 358 medical runs. Social Service Programs were somewhat less active following the Medicare/ConnPACE open enrollment deadlines. However, there were numerous follow-up calls. A number of glitches were addressed, but involved extensive telephone communications. Seniors have been receiving notifications that their premiums have not been paid; many have received coupon payment books. We have been reassuring them that ConnPACE will be paying both January and February premiums at the end of February for ConnPACE participants enrolled in a "benchmark" plan. We resumed taking applications for the Energy Assistance Program, with the assistance of a New Opportunities staff member on site at Calendar House. Senior Center Secretary/TCE Local Coordinator Cynthia Gilbert reported that all counselors attended training and passed the required certification test. Appointments are being made, and the program is set to begin mid February. An additional H1N1 Clinic was held on Saturday, January 9th. No additional clinics have been scheduled. Lynn Maschi noted that immunizations are being given at the Health Department by appointment. CCSU student Sara Cruz pursuing a degree in social work began an internship at Calendar House and will be with us through the end of the year. Lynn Maschi inquired if this was the first intern at Calendar House. Mr. Verderame replied that we have had several for shorter terms; Sara is the first long term intern.

Under Bus Maintenance: All buses are running well.

Under Building Maintenance: Several leaks were addressed following the major rain storm we experienced. Discussion as to the status of the flat roof included Mr. Verderame's explanation. The flat roof was replaced 15 years ago, with a projected life span of 20-25 years. As discussed last month, rain water and/or melting snow create an overload clogging the drains with the small stones that are part of the roof design. The excess water results in rotting the wood façade, causing leaks. Lynn Maschi questioned the structural integrity and remedy. Mr. Verderame assured her of the integrity and will recommend to the newly formed town Building Maintenance Committee, overseen by Anthony Tranquillo, having the roof re-tarred and façade replaced as weather permits. Earl Temchin remarked that flat roofs in general are problematic. Fire Marshall and Health Inspections resulted in satisfactory reports, with no remedial requirements noted. The kitchen floor was painted. The sink faucet in the coffee room was replaced. "No trespassing" signs for the parking lot were received.

The Program Coordinator's Report was not submitted.

A motion to accept the Director's Report as presented was made by Guss Nevelos; seconded by Susan Locks; all were in favor.

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Following the Director's Report, Mr. Temchin asked to revisit the "Senior Fair" discussion, asking the Commission if they wanted to act on the issue immediately or table it. Lynn Maschi made a motion to act on the issue this evening; seconded by Ben Cammuso. Further discussion ensued primarily concerned with the "marketing" concept; the vendor fees and the lack of local businesses involved. An alternative motion was made by Susan Locks to not approve or deny the event at this time but to take the matter under advisement, tabling it for further consideration; seconded by Guss Nevelos; with eight commissioners approving the motion, none dissenting and one, Lynn Maschi, abstaining.

Under Correspondence: Several rental requests were received. The Police Explorers Club requested the use of the building on March 10, 2010 for a ziti supper. They have held this event at Calendar House for the past three or four years. A motion to approve this request with the usual stipulations was made by Marlene Carbone; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor. The Knights of Columbus have asked to rent the building on March 21, 2010 for their annual breakfast, which they have sponsored for several years. A motion to approve this request with the usual stipulations was made by Lynn Maschi, seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor. UNICO has also requested building rental for their annual Big Breakfast on April 11, 2010. Mr. Verderame remarked that UNICO recently donated 52 folding chairs at a cost of just over \$1,000. A motion to approve this rental request was made by Lynn Maschi; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

Under Old Business: Mr. Verderame informed that Commission that a sensitivity training class has been scheduled on March 23, at noon, at the Calendar House. It will be conducted by a qualified individual from the Wheeler Clinic. The 2010/2011 Budget has been submitted to the Town Manager. The Building Maintenance Committee appointed by the Town Council requested a list of maintenance items that should taken consideration. A list was submitted to Anthony Tranquillo that included items discussed by the Senior Citizen Commission during the budget process. Mr. Temchin remarked that the Commission intends to keep a "hands on" approach to Calendar House maintenance concerns.

Under Committee Report: Earl Temchin asked Sandra Micalizzi for the Transportation Committee Report. Mrs. Micalizzi presented a draft survey form, requesting that the entire commission review it and bring comments, suggestions, etc. to the next Commission Meeting so that it can be finalized. At that time, the distribution method will also be discussed. This survey, based on national surveys, will go to the "grass roots", the folks who ride the bus. The Committee feels that the survey will be productive in ascertaining the needs and concerns of the transportation program participants, as well as reassure them of the concern and involvement of their Senior Citizen Commission. Lynn Maschi inquired about the information that had been requested at the prior meeting. Secretary Cynthia Gilbert distributed the requested information.

Under New Business: Mr. Verderame introduced the newly elected president of the Membership Association, Mr. Peter Freeman. Mr. Freeman has also been very instrumental in the development and operation of the SeniorNet Computer Lab and Computer Classes. He informed the Commission that the Computer Lab Committee has decided to opt out of involvement with the SeniorNet organization. Although very helpful in the initial development, they have changed their method of operations. They are now insisting on significant fees to be paid up-front. They are requiring an annual franchise fee of \$3600. to be paid by March. With a consensus of thirty-five volunteers, it was decided to disassociate with SeniorNet and go out on our own. This will be good for our seniors and good for the Center. We can provide software and are currently in process of revising curriculum. Sandra Micalizzi asked why

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this option hadn't been considered sooner. Mr. Freeman said the idea had been under consideration for at least two years, but each time it came up, SeniorNet would offer incentives of software, etc. Only recently did they announce the structural change. Earl Temchin inquired about software licensing which can be expensive. Mr. Freeman noted that the lab has 12 stations and the licensing would run approximately \$120. per station, an amount that can be easily covered by nominal registration fees.

Under Public Communication: Commissioner Ben Cammuso informed the Commission he would not be able to attend the next few meetings due to scheduled knee replacement surgery. Commissioner Lynn Maschi remarked that she had attended the February 4th Membership Meeting, offered her congratulations to the newly elected officers and directors, and thoroughly enjoyed the scheduled entertainment. Calendar House member Cliff Snow thanked Mrs. Maschi, and commented that he "would not want to see not having any health fair at all".

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Guss Nevelos; seconded by Ben Cammuso. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 9th, 2010** at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary