

MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commission Chairman, Earl Temchin.

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

Members absent: Marlene Carbone and Marjorie Chase.

The minutes of the March 10, 2009 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor.

Congratulations were extended to Commissioners Susan Locks, Ben Cammuso and Michael Rossi at their re-appointment to the Commission.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Susan Locks. She reported that of the \$520,585. revised budget, \$377,769.85 (75.2%) has been expended; \$13,867.94 has been encumbered, leaving \$129,147.21 remaining. Line items that we will continue to closely monitor include the Part Time Driver Wages; Building/Grounds/Maintenance; and Printing of the Bulletin. We are anticipating receipt of the fourth quarter payment of the Matching Grant. Mr. Temchin again commended Mr. Verderame and the entire staff for their successful efforts in obtaining grant funds. A motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor.

Robert Verderame presented the Director's and Program Coordinator's Report for March 2009. He noted that the Dial-A-Ride Program had another fantastic month, providing 926 one-way rides. We continue to carefully monitor the number and destinations of requests in an effort to coordinate the routes, in an attempt to save driver time and gasoline expenses, while continuing to meet the transportation demands. Social Service requests were relatively light, although we received many phone inquiries regarding various programs.

The Income Tax Program has been running very effectively and smoothly. The volunteer counselors have been doing an excellent job. Mary Robarge and Kathy Boglarski have been coordinating the sessions, e-filing and receiving acknowledgments from the IRS. There have been considerable requests for assistance. With all the appointments filled, several counselors volunteered to come in for an extra day. Their cooperation and willingness to offer assistance is to be commended. Over 192 individuals were assisted during the month of March.

The Executive Director reported that our buses continue to be running well, with routine maintenance being done as scheduled, and minor repairs made as needed.

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting

April 14, 2009

Page two

In regards to Building Maintenance, the Executive Director reported that the office computer network router was replaced; smoke detectors were installed in the office area; a broken toggle switch on the bingo machine was replaced; a 220 line was installed to accommodate the grill donated by the Southington Lions Club; a back splash was installed on the side of the kitchen stove; and the Ansel system and fire extinguishers were inspected by Southington Fire Equipment and passed.

The Program Coordinator's report included a Nurse Clinic on March 2nd; Trip Sale on March 6th; a Bagel Breakfast on March 10th with a presentation on gastro-intestinal problems (29 attendees); St. Patrick's Day Party on March 16th; a Bagel Breakfast on March 17th with Dr. Daniel Chin discussing visual impairments (38 attendees); Computer Class registration on March 23rd; Special Senior Café Luncheon and Ice Cream Social on March 25th; and our monthly membership meeting on March 26th, featuring a representative from the Southington Water Department advising our members of the prescription drug disposal program being held on Saturday, April 25th, followed by the movie, "Bucket List" (50 attendees).

Central Connecticut State University student and intern, Mikayla Holcomb, and the Program Coordinator met with Patricia Corvello, principal of Plantsville School to discuss their participation in a new intergenerational outreach program, GRO, (Generations Reaching Out), whose goal is to help homebound seniors remain connected to their senior center family and the community at large. Intergenerational programs help promote relationships and understanding between the generations as well as providing a wonderful learning experience for young people. With the permission of Superintendent Dr. Joseph Erardi, we are working with first grade students at Plantsville School, SHS Vo-Ag students and Southington Housing Authority staff on a May Day project. This will be an ongoing program involving many senior volunteers as well as other schools.

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

Under Correspondence: Minutes from the 4/1/09 Department Heads Meeting were reviewed. Of note was that it was a brief meeting, Finance Director Emilia Portelinha remains out with a medical issue, and the Sewer Department is facing several heavy collection months and a request was made to consider helping out. The letter the Executive Director sent to Mr. Weichsel regarding the Budget Containment Policy was received favorably. All requests were approved. It was noted that the Executive Director contributes considerable gratis time in order to facilitate various activities and contracted events.

Under Old Business: The required purchase order has been obtained; the new bus is on order and should be delivered in October. Regarding the Matching Grant, the bill is currently in the hands of the Senate. The Executive Director has been in contact with State Senator Sam Caligiuri and State Representative Bruce "Zeke" Zalaski.

Continuing under Old Business: The Bid for Lawn Service is out in the newspapers. The Town Attorney's office is handling this matter on a town wide level, and we are not responsible or involved in the process.

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting

April 14, 2009

Page three

The 2009/2010 Budget is in the process, currently in the hands of the Town Council. A public hearing is scheduled on April 27 at 7 p.m. at DePaolo Middle School. Jerry Dlugos has ordered materials for the pavilion, and is aware that the work must be completed prior to the June 30th deadline.

Under New Business: The Annual CASCAP All Staff Training session has been scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2009. This local training event provides a valuable opportunity for professional growth and development, as well as a venue for the exchange of information with staff members from state-wide senior centers. Previously, the center has been closed for one-half day to enable the entire staff to participate. The Commission values this opportunity and is willing to provide assistance as needed to enable the staff to attend. A motion to that effect was made by Michael Rossi; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

A review of the specifications for the custodial contract met with the Commission's approval. The invitation to bid will be published in two newspapers for one day. The bid opening will be handled through the Town Manager's office. A motion to proceed with the bid invitation, approving the specifications as presented, was made by Guss Nevelos; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor.

Special recognition was given to Commissioner Ben Cammuso for the outstanding honor of being selected as the "2009 Celebrate Southington! Volunteerism and Community Service Award Recipient". The award will be presented at the United Way of Southington Community Stakeholders Breakfast on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at The Orchards of Southington.

Thanking the Commissioners for their support, Ben Cammuso remarked that he has inspected the parking lot and is very pleased to report that no curb damage has occurred during snow plowing. He also remarked that he had previously requested that an American flag be placed in the room, and that future Commission Meetings open with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion to that effect was made by Mr. Cammuso; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor.

Michael Rossi wished to publicly recognize and express congratulations to Calendar House Board Member Walter Kizilski, who recently received the Immaculate Conception Medal of St. Joseph.

Under Public Communication: Calendar House Members Walter Kizilski and Cliff Snow were present. They offered congratulations to Ben Cammuso, thanking him for all the time and effort he contributes to the Calendar House. They also congratulated Commissioners Locks, Cammuso and Rossi on their re-appointments. They thanked Mr. Verderame for his efforts in obtaining approval for the Fine Arts and Crafts Exhibit, Polish Night and the Annual Health Fair.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. A motion to adjourn was made by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary