



Town of Fairfield

MINUTES

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

September 23, 2010

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, September 23, 2010, at 4:30 pm in the First Floor Conference Room in the Sullivan Independence Hall in Fairfield.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: William Varga, Chairman; Phil Stein, Vice Chairman; Jennifer Hochberg, Secretary; Doug DeFauw, Liaison to the Board of Health; Kathleen Howard, Elizabeth O'Connell, Joan Swanson, Al Vosburgh, and Terry Medlin.

ALSO PRESENT: Claire Grace, Director of Human and Social Services.

Several members of the public were present.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman William Varga at 4:30 pm.

Mr. Terry Medlin was introduced as a new Commissioner to the other members of the Human Services Commission.

GUEST SPEAKER: There was no guest speaker at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Phil Stein moved for approval of the minutes of the May 27th meeting; Elizabeth O'Connell seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Phil Stein moved for approval of the minutes of the June 24th meeting; Elizabeth O'Connell seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

FAIRFIELD SENIOR SERVICES:

Claire Grace, Director of the Fairfield Senior Center, provided a copy of the Fairfield Senior Center Statistical Report of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 to the members of this Commission.

Ms. Grace reported that the Fairfield Health Department will hold flu vaccination clinics at the Fairfield Senior Center on Wednesday, September 29th from 10am to 7pm, and on Thursday, September 30th from 10am to 4pm. Appointments are not necessary. Cards for Medicare Part B, HealthNet Medicare program cards and Anthem ID cards with numbers beginning with "XG" will be accepted to cover the flu shots. The cost of the flu shots without insurance is \$25.

Ms. Grace advised the Center has planned a trip to Port Jefferson on Wednesday, October 13th. A bus will leave the Center at 9:30am for the ferry terminal in Bridgeport and will return at 4:15pm. The cost is \$15.00.

A representative of the Connecticut Energy Agency will be at the Center on October 21st at 1:30pm to discuss all plans concerning rates for the generation portion of the electric bill only. All persons interested should bring their UI bill.

Ms. Grace reported that the Center is starting its fall semester for the Lifelong Learners courses, noting that Commissioner Al Vosburgh is in charge of registration.

The Center is also getting ready for the Bigelow Tea Race which will be held on September 26, 2010. Ms. Grace noted that the Fairfield Senior Center is one of several recipients of funds raised by the Bigelow Tea Race.

Ms. Grace gave an update on the renovations to the restrooms at the Center, noting that the men's room is completed and the women's restroom is now being renovated.

Commissioner Jennifer Hochberg noted that a new roof for the Senior Center is in the Town's budget for 2011-2012 under the Department of Public Works Five-Year Capital Projects Plan. In addition, Commissioner Doug DeFauw noted that a new boiler is now being installed at the Senior Center, and a second boiler and new windows for the Center are also included in the Town's DPW's Five-Year Plan.

BOARD OF HEALTH LIAISON:

Commissioner Doug DeFauw noted that the Board of Health reported that although mosquitoes with the West Nile virus have been found in the Town, there were no reports of infections at this time.

Mr. DeFauw reported that the Board of Health has 2,400 flu shots available, noting that the Senior Center has scheduled flu clinics for September 29th and 30th.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Commission has planned a visit to Parish Court on Thursday, October 7 at 10am. Commissioner Varga advised the Commissioners to park on the street as visitor parking is limited.

Mr. Varga reported that Elizabeth Gutierrez is the new Director of the Trefoil Senior Residential Apartments. Commissioner Doug DeFauw advised that he met with Ms. Gutierrez and has invited her to be a guest speaker at a future meeting of this Commission.

Commissioner Al Vosburgh said he was pleased with the Fairfield Senior Center Statistical Report prepared by Claire Grace, noting the extensive information contained therein. Mr. Varga suggested that the Center's monthly statistical report be attached to the minutes for posting on the Town's web site.

The Human Services Commission will hold its regular meeting at the Fairfield Senior Center on November 18 at 1:00 pm. All seniors are invited to attend.

Mr. Varga and Mr. DeFauw briefly discussed affordable housing and reported that the Town Planning & Zoning has voted to delete the "density bonus" clause from the Town's regulations. Mr. DeFauw explained the history behind this clause and the impact this decision would have on the future of affordable housing for the Town of Fairfield.

Commissioner Doug DeFauw reported that he had several discussions with the publisher of the Senior Times regarding the inclusion of a brief news item about the Human Services Commission in the monthly *Fairfield Senior Times*. Mr. DeFauw was pleased to note that the Human Services Commission was mentioned in the September issue of the *Fairfield Senior Times*. The first page article reported on the proposed meeting of the Commission at the Fairfield Senior Center on November 18.

Commissioner DeFauw said the Commission will review news items for publication in the Senior Times and in the local papers.

Commissioner DeFauw also discussed the mailing of attachments with the minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Doug DeFauw moved to **appoint Jennifer Hochberg** to serve as **liaison to the RTM**. Phil Stein seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Jennifer Hochberg accepted the appointment as Liaison to the RTM, noting that she regularly attended RTM and Board of Finance meetings in the past.

Ms. Hochberg reported that at the June 28th RTM meeting, Assessor Thomas Brown discussed the Tax Relief Ordinance (Tax Relief for the elderly Program), and the issue of closing certain loopholes that may exist in the current language of the ordinance was discussed with the Ordinance Review Committee. There was also an update on the Penfield Pavilion renovations by James Gallagher, Chairman of the Penfield Pavilion Building Committee. Items for discussion in the upcoming September 27th RTM meeting include approval of grant money for the purchase of a new Senior Center van, and amendments to the Tax Relief Ordinance for the elderly.

Also, Ms. Hochberg attended the joint Board of Finance/Board of Selectman meeting on the Five-Year Capital Plan and Debt Service Bonding on August 30, 2010. Ms. Hochberg pointed out that the renovations/improvements to the Fairfield Senior Center and the Sullivan-McKinney facility are also a part of the Five-Year Plan via the DPW'S Capital Projects list.

Chairman Bill Varga noted that there were several members of the public present and they were invited to ask questions or voice concerns.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further items for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Wadi, Recording Secretary