

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.
Fairfield Senior Center
100 Mona Terrace, Fairfield

DRAFT MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: William Varga, Chairman; Jennifer Hochberg, Secretary; Doug DeFauw, Board of Health Liaison; Kathleen Howard, Elizabeth O'Connell, Joan Swanson, Al Vosburgh

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Phil Stein, Vice-Chairman; Terry Medlin

ALSO PRESENT: Claire Grace, Director of Human & Social Services; Rich White, Department of Public Works; Elizabeth Gutierrez, Fairfield Housing Authority; Mary Ann Atwater; Ann Farrington; Nancy Legare

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm by Chairman William Varga.

1. Rich White, Department of Public Works

Presented the 5 year plan. Had previously submitted the plan to the committee for all the buildings except the Board of Education. If you need a copy, stop by his office.

Fixed up some of the bathrooms and will finish up with the remaining bathrooms. Architect (4-5 years ago) reviewed the Senior Center Building to see what it would take to bring it up to speed, i.e. windows

Senior Center/Child Guidance

- New roof scheduled for 2011
- 2 new boilers installed this year
- asbestos has been removed (approximately \$200,000)
- alarm system to be upgraded (approximately \$40,000)
- masonry work on the outside to be done
- replace carpeting in the building \$90,000/year for three years
- HVAC system to be addressed
- air conditioning: units on roof and window units. System is not efficient. Grants are available for this work.
- Lighting upgrade projects in the works. Recently upgraded the cafeteria. Looking to install energy saving fixtures to save money.

Other buildings:

- outside restrooms to be upgraded within the next two years to include handicap accessibility
- Lake Mohegan (pending passing budget) restrooms are not handicap accessible (approximately \$40-50,000)
- Sherman Green: paths need to be replaced

Mr. DeFauw: asked for time table for bathroom upgrades in Senior Center.

Mr. White: will get back to him next week.

Mr. DeFauw: asked about roof repairs

Mr. White: has documentation to support roof repairs. Cited McKinley Elementary School's roof as alerting the town to the importance of repairing the roofs. Suggests having people attend the meeting to support the roof repair.

Solar Power: 30 years for payback. Solar Hotwater arrays have been installed in a few buildings and are very efficient.

Carpeting: will be replacing the old carpeting that is fraying. No new areas will be carpeted. Carpet tiles may have asbestos.

2. Elizabeth Gutierrez, Fairfield Housing Authority

The Housing Authority provides housing for seniors and young disabled people. Approximately 30 units with federal subsidiary and 38 units with no federal subsidiary that rely on rent. This department is separate from the town and therefore have no personnel policy or benefits.

When she first started, she was informed that they had failed the Management Review for the past three years and that HUD was about to step in. Units require a lot of work as they haven't been maintained. In the past cabinets had been installed by tenants and her department is trying to bring uniformity to the units. There is no local preference for the waiting list but HUD will allow this change. The current wait list is closed and being reviewed and currently has 111 people on the list. She will forward the committee on the administrative plan and the list. Fairfield Housing Authority has the authority to float bonds without going through the town bodies as HUD and the State are their oversight. However it would have to go through zoning. This agency can put out a requisite for new buildings if the land exists. Currently there is no land that is affordable. She has been in this position for approximately 4 months and is looking forward to reaching out to the community.

Looking in to:

- raising the fair market rent on the units
- Veteran vouchers and other vouchers
- more elderly housing
- acquiring more units and how this will impact the community, i.e. police services, schools, etc.
- more elderly housing

Mr. Varga reported that the committee will be upgrading the units at Parrish Court will be remortgaged and will be working with HUD.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meetings of October 28, 2010

Motion was made by Mr. DeFauw and seconded by Mrs. O'Connell to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2010 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously

2. Fairfield Senior Services – Claire Grace, Director

They had a very nice volunteer tea today. Thanked the committee for attending.

Upcoming meetings:

12/2, 8:30-3:30pm- information on Probate Courts

12/7, 1pm –SWCAA will be attending

12/1/7-Medicare bus, need an appointment. Bring a list of your medications.

Sarah Levy met with Ms. Grace to get discuss getting an undergrant and Ms. Levy will be attending an upcoming SWCAA meeting.

4. Board of Health Liaison – Douglas DeFauw

Spoke with Sands Cleary, Director of the Health Department. They are still giving flu shots

5. RTM Liaison – Jennifer Hochberg

No Report as the November meeting has not occurred yet

6. Old Business

Mrs. Howard spoke with Mr. Flatto regarding the balance on the Republicans and Democrats on the Committee as there is currently an imbalance. When the next person steps down another Democrat or Independent will be chosen. If interested submit your resume to the First Selectman's office.

Mr. Varga read the thank you note that Mr. Flatto wrote to Mrs. Howard as she will be stepping down.

7. New Business

Ms. Hochberg proposed the 2011 calendar. All meeting will be held on Thursday:

1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26, 6/23, 7 and 8 no meetings, 9/22, 10/27, 11/17, 12/15

Motion was made by Ms. Hochberg and seconded by Mrs. O'Connell to reschedule the next meeting from 12/23/10 to 12/16/10 at 4:30 pm

Mr. DeFauw, requested that the commissioners give him suggestions on their interest, goals and guest speakers are for next year.

8. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Mr. Vosburgh to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 pm

Motion passed unanimously

Next meeting to be held on Thursday, December 16th at 4:30 pm at Sullivan Independence Hall, 2nd floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hochberg, Secretary

Charlotte Leslie, Recording Secretary