



Town of Fairfield

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

October 27, 2011

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Fairfield Senior Center.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Doug DeFauw, Chairman; Selma Cohen, Vice Chairperson; Phil Stein, Joan Swanson, and William Varga.

ALSO PRESENT: Claire Grace, Director of the Fairfield Senior Center and Director of the Department of Human & Social Services

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Palma Senatore

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Ron Atwater, Editor of the "Fairfield Senior Times"

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug DeFauw at 4:00 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(a) Commissioner William Varga moved for approval of the minutes of the June 23, 2011, meeting as presented. Commissioner Phil Stein seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

(b) Commissioner Doug DeFauw moved for approval of the minutes of the September 22, 2011, meeting with the following changes:

Page 3 - **6. NEW BUSINESS:** Change to read:

Commissioner Doug DeFauw noted that a 'podcast' of the First Selectman Michael Tetreau's discussion at this meeting will be available on the Town's website under "Senior Services – <http://www.fairfieldct.org/senior.htm>".

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (Cont'd - Changes to the September 22, 2011 Minutes)

Page 4 - **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** First paragraph – Change to read:

Ms. Palma Senatore pointed out that the Fairfield senior activities were listed on the last page of the activity directory for Fairfield and the surrounding towns. Ms. Senatore also said she thought the Town should pay for the cost of publishing the Fairfield Senior Directory. She also discussed the Town's tax relief program and said the Town needs to do more for its seniors.

The motion to approve the September 22, 2011, with the above changes was seconded and *passed* unanimously.

2. GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Ron Atwater, Editor of the "Fairfield Senior Times"

Commissioner DeFauw welcomed Mr. Ron Atwater, Editor of the "Fairfield Senior Times", a monthly newsletter for the Fairfield Senior Center.

Ms. Claire Grace, Director of the Fairfield Senior Center, was pleased to note the new 'state-of- art' computer and printer donated to the Senior Center by the Fairfield Senior Center Association.

Mr. Atwater said he enjoys working with the new computer and divides his time between the Senior Center and home when editing the "Fairfield Senior Times". Mr. Atwater went on to explain that he had published the 'Senior Times' on the Town's website and had included this years' previous issues. Mr. Atwater noted that while the printed newsletter is 'black & white', the newsletter on the website is in color and he showed the Commission the many features which he had incorporated into the newsletter's site. Mr. Atwater further noted that he had placed the newsletter on 'FaceBook'.

Ms. Grace noted that 3,500 copies of the newsletter are printed monthly and that the copies are available at more sites around town, including many churches. Ms. Grace also noted that the number of advertisers has increased and thanked Mr. Atwater for his hard work.

The Commissioners were pleased with the new format of the newsletter which was created by Mr. Atwater, and of the content, and all agreed that Mr. Atwater did a great job in putting the newsletter on the Town's website.

Mr. Atwater thanked the Commission for having him as a Guest Speaker and said he looked forward to meeting with them again soon.

3. FAIRFIELD SENIOR SERVICES: Claire Grace, Director - Fairfield Senior Services

Ms. Grace reported that the Fairfield Senior Center's Craft Shop will hold a Holiday Fair on November 3rd, noting that there will be a wide variety of handmade goods.

Ms. Grace advised that November is National Fire Prevention month and those interested could sign up on November 3rd at the Senior Center for free batteries installed in their smoke detectors by a Fairfield Fireman.

Ms. Grace also reported that the Cardiovascular Screening will be available at the Senior Center on November 16th at 9:30 a.m. However, Ms. Grace noted that the Health Fair which was scheduled to be held at the Senior Center on November 16th will be rescheduled for some time in March or April 2012.

4. BOARD OF HEALTH LIAISON: Commissioner Doug DeFauw

Commissioner Doug DeFauw reported that the Board of Health gave Flu shots earlier this month, setting up a tent on the green at the Town Center and at the Fairfield Senior Center.

Commissioner DeFauw asked Ms. Grace if a survey was conducted at the end of each 'LifeLong Learners' semester as to what other courses and activities would be of interest to the participants. Mr. DeFauw said he wanted some input from the Fairfield Senior Center as to what other activities or programs they would like to have at the Center and which activities or programs would be needing grants, i.e. nutrition, etc. Ms. Grace said a survey is conducted and agreed the Town should have a 'Grant Writer'.

Mr. DeFauw asked the Commissioners to come up with suggestions as to what programs might be of interest to Seniors but which might need a grant.

Commissioner William Varga said the Commission needs to plan now to get the programs on the budget or a grant, and that they should create a strategy and set priorities.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

The Commission discussed the new 'Directory of Services' to be published by the Department of Human Services. Ms. Clare Grace is the Director of the Department of Human Services. Ms. Grace noted the many months of hard work that went into the preparation of the Directory and said that only each **part** of the Directory which was pertinent to a Department was sent to the Department Head for their input. Ms. Grace also said the Directory is now finalized and was waiting to be published and placed on the Town's website. Ms. Grace said she would issue a press release regarding its placement on the website.

The Commissioners also discussed the powers and duties of the Human Services Commission. Commissioner Selma Cohen said the Commission is charged with 'policy making' for the Department of Human Services, noting that pursuant to the Town Charter:

“The Duties of the Director of Human and Social Services shall:

. . . (5) Report to the First Selectman on matters of administration and operation,

and to the Human Services Commission on matters of policy.”

and

“ . . . B. Powers and Duties. The Human Services Commission shall be the policy-making body for the Department of Human Services.”

6. NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Doug DeFauw presented a list of Legislative Bills pending before the Aging Committee 2011, which was briefly discussed by the Commission.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Palma Senatore noted the ‘Fairfield Senior Times’ newsletter on-line on the Town’s website and on ‘FaceBook’ and said it was well done. She also said she felt strongly that the Town should do more for its seniors.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Selma Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Phil Stein seconded the motion. The motion *passed* and the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSTANCE M. WADI
Recording Secretary

N.B. The next meeting of the Human Services Commission will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2011, at the Fairfield Town Hall at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes are subject to review, correction, and approval by the Human Services Commission.