



# Town of Fairfield

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

### MINUTES December 15, 2011

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, December 15, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of the Fairfield Town Hall at the John J. Sullivan Independence Hall.

**PRESENT: Commissioners:** Selma Cohen, Vice Chairperson; Louis Fernous, Marc Andrew, and Kevin Lennon.

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:** There is no guest speaker today.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Selma Cohen at 4:10 p.m.

Vice Chairman Selman Cohen introduced the two new Commissioners, Marc Andre and Kevin Lennon and welcomed them to the board.

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Selma Cohen moved for approval of the minutes of the November 17, 2011, meeting as presented. Commissioner Louis Fernous seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### 2. GUEST SPEAKER:

There was no guest speaker at this meeting.

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

Mrs. Claire Grace reported the following changes in the membership of the Human Services Commission:

Commission terms expired for Douglas DeFauw, Terry Medlin and Phil Stein;

Commissioner William Varga resigned; and

Two new Commissioners have been appointed: Marc G. Andre and Kevin Lennon.

Mrs. Grace noted that the annual Holiday Party held at the Senior Center yesterday was well attended. The party was sponsored by the Fairfield Senior Center and featured a singing group called the 'Elderberries' which was sponsored by the Continuing Education. Everyone had a great time.

Mrs. Grace advised that a new type of exercise program will be added to the Center's activities. The program is called the 'Z Method' and is run by Fairfield Fire Department Assistant Chief George Gomola. Introductory classes will be held on January 6<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. This is an exciting new type of exercise program for seniors.

Mrs. Grace also reported that the Lifetime Learners has decided to add four winter classes to its program. The classes will include "Women of the 50's As Seen Through The Lens of TV", "The Changing Balance of Power In The World", "Sharing Travel Discoveries", and "The King's Club: Grandsons of King Christian IX".

Commissioner Louis Fernous commented on the discontinuation of lunch services at the Fairfield Senior Center on Thursdays by SWCAA and the elimination of coffee and tea at meals on the other days. Noting that the Center did not receive advance notice, Mrs. Grace was told that SWCAA was looking to reduce their expenses for providing the meals. Mr. Fernous advised that the Fairfield Senior Center Association has agreed to pay for the coffee and tea at the lunches. Mrs. Grace and the Senior Center directors are looking for ways to restore the Thursday lunches, while SWCAA is looking for solutions to fill the budget gap.

Mrs. Grace gave a brief history of the Fairfield Senior Center to the new Commissioners, noting the recent renovations, and that it now has a five year plan with the Town.

Mrs. Grace reviewed the proposed 2012 budget for the Center. Mrs. Grace said they will be receiving a new bus shortly, but that all the other buses need extensive maintenance and repairs.

Commissioner Selma Cohen suggested including the cost of placing ads regarding the new LifeLong Learners winter classes in the proposed budget for 2012. Ms. Cohen also suggested putting the cost of Thursday's lunches in the proposed 2012 budget.

Mrs. Grace reported that the Social Services will be providing Christmas packages for 67 families, thanks to the donations of many local businesses and organizations.

#### **4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The election of officers was held.

The Commission voted as follows:

Commissioner Louis Fernous nominated Commissioner **Selman Cohen for Chairman**; Commissioner Kevin Lennon seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Louis Fernous nominated Commissioner **Marc Andre for Vice Chairman**; Commissioner Kevin Lennon seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Selman Cohen nominated Commissioner **Louis Fernous for Secretary**; Commissioner Marc Andre seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Selman Cohen nominated Commissioner **Kevin Lennon for Liaison to the Board of Health**; Commissioner Louis Fernous seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **5. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Ms. Pam Shaunessy spoke briefly about the Fairfield Senior Center's website, Thursday lunches at the Senior Center, the need for publicity, the Center's proposed budget, and the need to reach out.

Ms. Palma Senatore spoke briefly about the proposed budget for the Senior Center and said the Human Services Commission needs to ask for more money.

Helen Nilsson spoke briefly about her recent letter to the Fairfield Citizen regarding the Fairfield Senior Center.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Kevin Lennon moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Louis Fernous seconded the motion. The motion *passed* and the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSTANCE M. WADI  
Recording Secretary

**N.B. The next meeting of the Human Services Commission will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2012, at the Fairfield Town Hall at 4:00 p.m.**

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