



Town of Fairfield

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES March 22, 2012

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, March 22, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Fairfield Town Hall at the John J. Sullivan Independence Hall.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Selma Cohen, Chairman; Marc Andre, Vice Chairman; Louis Fernous, Secretary; Nancy Legare, Elizabeth O'Connell, Bruce Carter and Linda DeLorenzo

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Selma Cohen at 4:00 pm.

Chairman Selman Cohen welcomed the two new Commissioners, Bruce Carter and Linda DeLorenzo.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Selma Cohen asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2012, meeting with the following correction to Page 3, Item 6. NEW BUSINESS, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

“After a brief discussion, Chairman Selma Cohen asked for a motion to have Commissioner Kevin Lennon explore the feasibility and requirements of establishing an organization for the ‘Friends of the Fairfield Senior Center’.

Commissioner Louis Fernous made a motion to have Commissioner Kevin Lennon explore the feasibility and requirements of establishing an organization for the ‘Friends of the Fairfield Senior Center’.

Commissioner Nancy Legare **seconded** the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**”

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

Commissioners Selma Cohen, Nancy Legare, Kevin Lennon and Marc Andre attended the Board of Finance meeting which was held on Tuesday, March 6th at 7pm at the Board of Education. The 2012-2013 Budget was discussed and included the renovations to the Fairfield Senior Center. Ms. Grace noted that a meeting of the Board of Finance would be held at the Fairfield Senior Center on Saturday, March 24th at 9:30 am. The meeting is a public information meeting and the public will be allowed to speak.

Also, a Tax Relief CMA meeting will be held on Saturday, May 19th at 9:30 am will be held at the Senior Center. Ms. Grace is again asking all those interested in supporting the Senior Center attend these meetings.

Ms. Grace also noted that a meeting of the RTM will be held on Wednesday, April 11th at 8:15 am in the McKinley School cafeteria.

Ms. Grace said she was happy to report that the Thursday lunches at the Fairfield Senior Center have been reinstated by SWACCA, effective April 1st. The price for the lunches will be the same as the other days - \$2. The Senior Center has been receiving lunches on Thursdays from Lindley Caterers.

Ms. Grace reported that a seminar will be held at the Senior Center focusing on 'Coping with Low Vision'. The meeting will be held on May 22nd at 10:30 am through 1:30 pm.

Ms. Grace briefly discussed a new committee recently formed known as the 'Top Ten Committee', noting that Ms. Palma Senatore is a member, in addition to Ms. Nancy Legare and Lou Fernous. The Committee is chaired by Rick DeAngelis and met earlier today. The Committee's mission is to develop top ten items most important to the Fairfield Senior Center.

Ms. Grace further reported that she received a private donation of \$5,000.00 to conduct a survey to be mailed out to the town residents. The survey will help to determine the needs of the seniors, how the programs and services at the Center are utilized, other issues important to seniors, and ideas for future planning. Tabulation, reporting and recommendations will be done for free by Millard Brown International Market Research & Advertising Company through an employee community service.

3. BOARD OF HEALTH – Kevin Lennon, Liaison

Commissioner Lennon was unable to be present at this meeting. There is no report from the Board of Health at this time.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Selma Cohen reported that she spoke with Commissioner Kevin Lennon. Mr. Lennon said he had a discussion with the First Selectman, Michael Tetreau regarding the organization of the "Friends of the Fairfield Senior Center Association. Mr. Tetreau said he was looking into a foundation for the Senior Center.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Claire Grace reported that she did a ‘walk through’ of the Senior Center with Ed McCort of the Public Works Department. They discussed the replacement of the blinds, painting the walls and installing new carpet.

The Commissioners discussed the condition of the doors at room entrances at the Fairfield Senior Center. Ms. Grace stated that the doors do not work properly and are in need of replacement. The Commission asked Commissioners Marc Andre and Bruce Carter if they could work together to inspect the room doors and make recommendations for repair or replacement. Chairmen Selman Cohen asked for a motion for same.

Commissioner Nancy Legare made a motion to have Commissioner Marc Andre and Commissioner Bruce Carter work together to inspect the room doors at the Fairfield Senior Center and make recommendations as to the need for repairs or replacement.

Commissioner Kathleen O’Connell **seconded** the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Palma Senatore suggested that the Fairfield Senior Center should be relocated in a new building.

Helen Milsson said the Senior Center have a separate room for meetings, and suggested using the woodworking room for future meetings.

Ms. Pamela Banks suggested the Town have a Community Center which could be used during the day for the Senior Center and later used for a Community Center.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Louis Fernous moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Louis Fernous seconded the motion. The motion *passed* unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSTANCE M. WADI
Recording Secretary

N.B. The next meeting of the Human Services Commission will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at the Fairfield Town Hall at 4:00 p.m. in the second floor conference room.

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