



Town of Fairfield

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 28, 2013

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, February 28, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of the John Sullivan Independence Hall.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Selma Cohen, Chairman; Linda DeLorenzo, Vice Chairman; Marc Andre, Bruce Carter, and Joan Swanson

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: Mark S. Barnhart, Director
Community & Economic Development

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

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Mr. Mark Barnhart, Director of Community & Economic Development, discussed the Community Development Block Grant which is to begin on October 1, 2013. The program is open to town seniors over 65 years of age, of low - moderate income, for home repairs and improvements. The grant provides no-interest loans up to 60% of the cost of improvements. It will pay a handyman up to three hours of work around the house – the homeowner must pay for the materials. All seniors must be income eligible. Applications must be filed by the end of the business day on March 15th.

The Federal grant also provides funds for public works. The Town intends to use the current years grant as the baseline for planning purposes and will make adjustments as additional information becomes available.

The Commission was very interested and asked many questions in order to get a better understanding of the Community Development Block Grant.

Mr. Barnhart noted that application forms for funding assistance is available through the Office of Community & Economic Development.

Chairman Selma Cohen thanked Mr. Barnhart for his report. Ms. Claire Grace also thanked Mr. Barnhart, noting that she thought the Federal Grant for Community Development was a good program for the community and the Senior Center.

The Commission continued to discuss the program after Mr. Barnhart left. Ms. Claire Grace noted that the Senior Center was in need of funds for many items of repair and/or replacement. Ms. Grace said the Senior Center is in need of additional funds to replace the gym floor, new audio equipment, and a feasibility study. An application was given to Commissioner Marc Andre to review.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bruce Carter to have Commissioner Mark Andre prepare the Application for funds for the Fairfield Senior Center under the Community Development Block Grant. Commissioner Nancy DeLorenzo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Andre said he would meet with the new Director of the Senior Center to review the Application for funds under said Grant.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Selma Cohen asked for a motion to approve the minutes for January 24, 2013.

Commissioner Marc Andre moved for approval of the minutes of the January 24, 2013, as presented. Commissioner Bruce Carter seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Ms. Claire Grace noted that she has been working with Mark Barnhart of the Office of Community & Economic Development in connection with the SuperStorm Sandy Relief Fund. Ms. Grace said the Town had received grants for repairs to property in the Flood Plain Area.

Ms. Grace also noted that today was the last day for the Small Business Relief Fund Applications.

Ms. Grace advised that a St. Patrick's Day Party will be held at the Senior Center on Tuesday, March 19th from 1pm to 2pm. and that there will be traditional Irish music and hoped all will come.

3. BOARD OF HEALTH – Kevin Lennon, Liaison

There was no new business to report at this time.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Selma Cohen reported that she had presented the ‘Top Ten’ Study to the Finance Committee. The First Selectman Michael Tetreau and members of the Commission said the need for more staff was most important. Mr. Tetreau recommended two new staff members, (1) a Director, and (2) a part-time receptionist.

Commissioner Cohen also reported that she worked with the First Selectman regarding interviews for the new Director of Human Services. The new Director as of March 1, 2013, is Teresa Giegangack. Ms. Giegangack will be present at the next meeting on March 28th.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Cohen noted that a new member will be added to this Commission. Mr. Bernard Lynch will be present at the next meeting.

Ms. Cohen noted that this was the last meeting Ms. Claire Grace would be attending as Director of the Human & Social Services and Director of the Fairfield Senior Center. Ms. Cohen presented Ms. Grace with a bouquet of roses and thanked Mr. Grace for her years of service and her dedication. All Commissioners joined in thanking Ms. Grace – noting that she will be greatly missed.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSTANCE M. WADI
Recording Secretary

N.B. The next meeting of the Human Services Commission will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2013, in the first floor conference room of the John J. Sullivan Independence Hall at 4:00 p.m.

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