



Town of Fairfield

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES May 23, 2013

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, May 23, 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, Nancy Legare, Kevin Lennon, Bernard Lynch and Joan Swanson

ALSO PRESENT: Teresa Giegengack, Director of Human And Social Services

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Selma Cohen asked for a motion to approve the minutes for April 25, 2013.

Commissioner Linda DeLorenzo moved for approval of the minutes of the April 25, 2013, meeting as presented. Commissioner Nancy Legare seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairperson Selma Cohen thanked the Commissioners for showing support by attending the appeal hearing regarding the full-time position for Director of the Fairfield Senior Center. Ms. Cohen reported that she met with First Selectman Michael Tetreau and asked to restore the full-time position for a Senior Center Director. A discussion followed.

Commissioner Nancy Legare asked about forming a plan with the goal to a full-time Director for the Fairfield Senior Center. Commissioner Linda DeLorenzo inquired about the contingency fund and said it should be stressed that the Director's position was originally full-time.

Commissioner Marc Andre said they would still need to go before the RTM for approval to use the contingency fund.

Ms. Teresa Giegengack said she will get a history of the Director's position and will prepare a draft of a petition to present for return of the Director's position to full-time and for use of the contingency fund only until inclusion and approval in the next budget.

Commissioner Kevin Lynch noted that the "Top Ten" Commission had recommended a full-time position. He also noted that the contingency fund had been used in the past.

Ms. Cohen asked the Commissioners about changing the location of the monthly meetings to the Senior Center. The Commissioners all agreed. Commissioner Brendon Lynch said a notice would need to be posted noting the change of the meetings to the Senior Center.

Ms. Cohen noted that the amount of tax relief has been increased. Ms. Cohen further noted that 1,766 applications for tax relief had been filed.

3. FAIRFIELD SENIOR SERVICES:

Ms. Giegengack reported many volunteers from the high school helped with the second evening session, which was held on May 22nd, and interacted with the seniors. Commissioner Nancy Legare noted that she was present at the evening session and that it was very successful. Ms. Giegengack said the third evening session of the pilot program would take place on June 12th. Ms. Giegengack noted that she has received offers of help from many of those who attended and suggestions of fund raisers to help support the evening programs.

Other topics discussed included a building a modest greenhouse at the center, which would be available to both the youth and senior volunteers. Ms. Giegengack noted that the National Charity League wants to do a project at the Senior Center, and also received offers to help from the Junior Women's Club.

Commissioner Selma Cohen said an instructor from a Fairfield School talked about having a brunch in the fall – to talk about sponsoring a director for the senior center.

A Veterans Program to honor six high school students for entering the armed forces will be held the day after Memorial Day.

Ms. Giegengack noted that a Social Worker from the Senior Center is out on medical leave and she hopes to have the position filled by the end of July.

Ms. Giegengack reported that she is still working with Operation Hope and Mark Barnhart with the remaining applications for relief from the Super Storm Sandy.

4. BOARD OF HEALTH – Bruce Carter, Liaison

Commissioner Bruce Carter noted that Ms. Geigengack is on the Community Health Assessment Committee and will have a report at the next meeting of the Commission.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Marc Andre noted that an application has been sent in regarding the neighborhood grant program and he will contact Home Depot regarding improvements to the entrance and the gym floor.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Selma Cohen suggested the Commission consider a retreat. The Commission will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:

Ms. Palma Senator discussed the Senior Tax Relief.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSTANCE M. WADI
Recording Secretary

N.B. The next meeting of the Human Services Commission will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2013, in the meeting room of the Fairfield Senior Center at 4:00 p.m.

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