



Town of Fairfield

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 26, 2013

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, September 26, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Fairfield Senior Center.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Selma Cohen, Chairman; Linda DeLorenzo, Vice Chairman; Marc Andre, Nancy Legare, Kevin Lennon and Bernard Lynch

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.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Ms. Nancy McCormick, Executive Director
ITNCoastal CT**

Ms. Nancy McCormick, Executive Director of ITNCoastal CT discussed the services provided by the member-rider transportation company. The company serves the town of Fairfield in addition to Easton, Norwalk, Weston, Westport and Wilton. The service does not include Bridgeport at this time. The company provides transportation services to its senior members and the visually impaired for a nominal membership fee and the reasonable cost of transportation. The company does have a program for those who are unable to pay the cost for the service. The transportation service is available 24 hours seven days a week, and the rider must call the day before to arrange transportation services. The town's website will include information regarding this service under the listing of available transportation for the town. Those interested may call (203) 858-2001 for information or to arrange transportation.

Commissioner Nancy Legare moved for a motion to support the ITNCoastal CT transportation service. Commissioner Kevin Lennon seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Selma Cohen asked for a motion to approve the minutes for June 27, 2013.

Commissioner Nancy Legare moved for approval of the minutes of the June 27, 2013, meeting with the following changes:

Page 2, paragraph 2, omit Commissioner Nancy Legare's name from the last sentence, to read as follows:

"Marc Andre said he would be willing to prepare a draft for review by the Commissioners."

Commissioner Bernard Lynch seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairperson Selma Cohen introduced Alida Ward as the new Commissioner.

3. FAIRFIELD SENIOR SERVICES: Teresa Giegengack, Dir./Human and Social Services

Ms. Teresa Giegengack noted that she has received many requests from organizations to use the Senior Center to discuss various topics of interest to the seniors.

Ms. Giegengack reported that the 'Wednesday Night Out' events have been successful and will continue - thanks to the help of the many volunteers. Events are scheduled for October 9th and October 23rd.

Ms. Giegengack reported that the Human and Social Services will be accepting applications for heating assistance beginning October 1st.

Ms. Giegengack noted that a draft of the department FY 14/15 budget will be presented to the Commission at the meeting on October 24th for consideration after a preliminary review with the Selectman. Ms. Giegengack addressed the need for additional staffing to help as Senior Center Director. She stated that after a review of the duties and responsibilities required to properly manage the Human Services department, which includes the Senior Center, she feels that additional staff help is recommended.

Ms. Giegengack also discussed the Tax Relief Program and its importance to the Town's seniors. With winter approaching, Ms. Giegengack noted that the snow removal program will be available to help seniors with snow-covered sidewalks. Cristin McCarthy Vahey, a member of the Board of Selectman, noted that ninth-graders would be available to shovel sidewalks or driveways for the elderly and the disabled. Those needing the service can call the Senior Center for information.

Ms. Giegengack said she would ask Mrs. Eileen Kennelly, the ADA Compliance Coordinator, for the Town, to speak before the Commission regarding disability access.

4. BOARD OF HEALTH:

Chairman Selma Cohen reported that the flu clinics will be held Wednesday, October 2nd from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm, and Thursday, October 3rd from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm in the Fairfield Senior Center gymnasium.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

There were no old matters for discussion at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

There were no new matters for discussion at this time.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:

Ms. Palma Senator said she supports the need for a full-time Director for the Senior Center and that there should be more money available for senior activities.

Ms. Helen D'Avanzo said she was pleased with the changes and new activities at the Senior Center. She also discussed problems the disabled encounter when they not able to enter a building.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSTANCE M. WADI
Recording Secretary

N.B. The next meeting of the Human Services Commission will be held on Thursday, October 24, 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.