

Commission on Aging
Minutes
Wednesday January 21, 2009
Greenwich Senior Center
8:30

Present: L. Jackson, Chairman, C. Brennan, V. Chairman, K. Browne, C. Whelan, Howard Sorrell, K, LaMonica, Jack Morris, Sam Deibler

Guests: Laurette Helmrich; Sr. Center, Gerry Christophersen, Bernice Carroll; MOW Ruth Wilson; Greats, Rob Black; GADC, Christine Edwards; RTM, BOC, Jr.League Task Force, Judy Stoddard; Social Services

I. November 19, 2008 minutes approved.

II. Chairman's report:

Senior Tax relief passed. North Mianus neighborhood felt we should postpone vote on senior tax relief until March to determine if some would be disqualified from senior tax relief for not paying taxes. Ted Gwartney reported there are 55 seniors who live in that neighborhood and none of them have applied or qualify for senior tax relief.

Despite all best efforts; of the three motions, two were denied. Did not get the 1 million dollar cap and did not lose CIP index. Did get Sunset provision.

Lori thanked Commissioners that were able for attending district meetings.

III. Old Business:

No old business.

IV. New Business:

No new business

V. Reports:

- Elderly Tax Relief: Legislation passed.

-Multipurpose Senior Center: No update.

-Social Services: No meeting to report on.

-Nathaniel Witherell: November minutes distributed and reviewed. Next meeting: 1/27/09.

-Housing:

Waiting for POCD because that has elements in it relating to the housing issues we have been working on with United Way and Housing Task Force. The original draft

that came out of the POCD process had some extensive engagement with the issue as well as recommendation regarding work force house development and senior housing and it went back into committee. Draft is to be release on 1/23/09. It will go through Planning and Zoning to be adopted before going to the RTM. The town made a commitment to the state that they would build 44 units of housing. Consideration was being given to using land on the site of the Power Station at the Cos Cob train station. It has been determined that housing on this site is not appropriate due to contamination.

-Senior Center Director's Report:

Last Tuesday the Greats held their Board of Directors meeting and an announcement was made to them about the proposed restructuring. They expressed concern about two positions being taken away and are hopeful one of the current staff members will be filling the new position. Job description for Senior Center Program Director distributed and reviewed. Hopeful job's bargaining status will be LIUNA. Current program planners will be effective until 7/1/09.

Center for the Arts office being disbanded this month and will be vacated.

Staffs of Commission on Aging and Senior Center were certified in CPR on 1/20/09.

Chinese New Year party being held on Friday 1/23/09.

-2009-2010 Budgets:

Copy of a memo from the First Selectman's office relating to town's budget crunch distributed and reviewed. The town is looking at revenues and how they will be able to address the question of a mill rate increase next year. BET submitted a set of guidelines. Guidelines supposed to operate in setting of all budgets. Guidelines were altered when First Selectman asked for 10% reduction in non-salary line items.

Non-salary accounts will be increased by no more than 3.0% in aggregate from FY'09 budget.

-Director's Report:

Over the course of the 6 week window for Medicare part D, over 350 people were seen. A third of those people needed to make changes. The 15 volunteers were "marvelous" and there was great cooperation from various community services. Senior Provider Network was postponed. The next meeting is at the First Congregational Church 2/4/09. The March meeting will be at Atria, the former Sterling Glen, 3/4/09.

VII. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kristen Browne
Secretary