

THE NATHANIEL WITHERELL

Family Council General Meeting Minutes

*July 21, 2009*

The meeting was called to order by Carol Lindstrum, Secretary, promptly at 6:30 PM. Approximately 22 persons were present. Minutes of the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. Carol introduced the members of the Family Council in attendance.

Scott Neff of The Friends of Witherell spoke about the September 21<sup>st</sup> golf tournament fund raiser. He reported 54 golfers had registered to date and provided brochures.

Al DiSapio read the Family Council Mission which is to “protect and improve the quality of life of residents” and the Council’s goal of continuous improvements to the level of care.

Ruth Ann Honcz, Acting Treasurer, reported on the raffle held during the annual Picnic. Thanks to her organizational skills the raffle netted \$1,080.00. Thanks also to Tom Reale and Rose Stearns who were instrumental in obtaining gift items and to Sandy Chiesa who sold a great number of raffle tickets.

As head of the nominating committee, Ruth Ann proposed a list of candidates for the Family Council Board for the coming year. The proposed list of candidates for the Family Council Board includes:

Irene Theriot	Chair
Al DiSapio	Vice-Chair & Liaison to Project Renew
Ruth Ann Honcz	Treasurer
Carol Lindstrum	Secretary
Maryanne Chiappetta	Liaison to Board of Directors
Tom Reale	Member
Scott Sopher	Member

Ruth Ann called for additional nominations from the floor and stated there were none. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the proposed slate.

Ruth Ann then proposed Bylaw changes and asked attendees to refer to the handouts. These changes were discussed and approved.

Carol mentioned the Greenwich Times editorial by David Ormsby regarding potential cutbacks in Medicare/Medicaid funding and the Family Council’s efforts to support David’s position. Post cards signed by TNW families/visitors were also mailed to legislators.

Carol then introduced Lynn Bausch, Justine Vaccaro, and Dr. Rev. Heather Webb- Parkinson of TNW to speak on the subject of **Palliative Care**.

Lynn Bausch opened the discussion with announcements about improvements in a number of areas based upon Family Council member input. She also announced the appointment of Allen Brown as the new Executive Director starting August 31<sup>st</sup>. TNW Family Council welcomes Mr. Brown and looks forward to working with him.

Lynn, Justine and Heather then gave an excellent presentation on Palliative Care. Justine explained that it is an interdisciplinary effort in providing comfort and care for someone who is suffering. Reverend Heather described the “butterfly program” or basket of items the Chaplaincy provides to families dealing with the suffering of a loved one. Lynn also mentioned that a subspecialty of TNW is hospice care and that Jane Kennelly, a nurse on the third floor, is a hospice nurse. Letters will be sent to all TNW residents regarding choices for a funeral home, if such a decision is not now on file.

Lucy Nevins announced a creative musical program she is orchestrating for the September fundraiser.

The meeting was promptly adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Al DiSapio, Vice Chair TNW Family Council