

Senior Services Commission

December 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Anne Kaiser at 10:30 a.m.

Present:	Judy Benvenuto	Deirdre Daly	Ann Jordan
	Anne Kaiser	Patricia Snow	Bonnie Sprague
	Linda Worden	Judy Norris	

Absent: Steven Falco, Mertie Terry, Al Waters

Others: Amy Saada – Senior/Human Services Director
Paula Luna – Town Council
Sal Nesci – Director of Public Health
Kathleen Cartwright – Cromwell Resident
Marilyn Teitelbaum- Cromwell Resident

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to Approve by Judy Norris, seconded by Patricia Snow. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting made by Deirdre Daly; seconded by Linda Worden. All in favor. Motion carried.

Director of Public Health Update – Sal Nesci

Vaccine Clinics are complete for the year. Sal thanked the commission and volunteers for their support. Additional clinics may be considered based on trends. The Health Department receives data from the state on a monthly basis and can monitor numbers.

Health Department is running low on COVID tests kits. Health Department is trying to purchase through a vendor but is having difficulty. Board discussed getting through CDC, USPS or other means and Sal will put together information and share through the Senior Center newsletter.

Sal did a snack & learn event on Storm Preparedness with 6 people in attendance. A copy of the Storm Prep booklets were provided to the Senior Commission and are located throughout the building.

Everbridge is an emergency notification system that town residents should sign up for to stay informed in case of emergencies or disaster. The senior center can assist seniors with registering, but information is on the town website.

Council Liaison Update – Paula Luna

Paula shared there will be a meet the mayor event at the Senior Center on 12/15 at 9:30am and there will be a community forum prior to the regular town council meeting on December 13th where people can ask questions. Paula shared some community events that were successful- The historical society held an open house on 12/9 and the Recreation Department had a craft fair with 80 vendors.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

Grants/Funding Updates

\$2880.00 Grant for a Tai Ji Quan class was supposed to start in December, but we received an extension as our instructor had broken her hip. The class is now set to begin in February.

December Program Updates:

12/7- Meet the author, Barbara McClane

12/8- Holiday Craft

12/15- Meet the Mayor

12/15- Snow Ball Dance

12/21- Holiday Luncheon Spectacular- featuring our Drama Club's Holiday Performance, "The Court of Christmas Scoundrels"

Local Trips this Month

12/11- Festival of Trees at Wadsworth Athenium & Lunch at The River

12/14- Magic of Lights at Rentschler Field & Dinner at Maggie McFly's

12/20- Holiday Magic at Florence Griswold

Friendship Tours Upcoming Trips:

March 16, 2024	Fireplace Feast at Salem Cross Inn	\$147
March 27, 2024	The Orchid Show at New York Botanical	\$124
June 16-23, '24	Bermuda Cruise from NJ	\$1449
September 5-16 '24	Escorted Mediterranean Cruise	\$3799
November 9-23, '24	Escorted Repositioning Cruise Southern Caribbean	\$2549
December 4-8 '24	Escorted San Antonio Holiday	\$2799

We have collaborated with Charter Oak State College to host social work interns in addition to our previous agreement for their Public Health Nursing Students. In January we will have one social work student and one nursing student for the semester.

Our next Kin Care Connection meeting is on Thursday, October 12 with a special presentation from Mary's Place, A Center for Grieving Children and Families. Free dinner and childcare is available. KinCare is a collaboration between Youth Services and Senior Services to offer support and resources to families.

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is currently open and it helps low income with winter heating costs. We have processed 112 applications so far this season and the program is open until April.

Holiday Food and Gift programs: Served 95 families for Thanksgiving Food Baskets, 105 applications are in for the December Food Baskets; 58 children have been adopted for our Adopt a Family program.

We received and processed the Boy Scout Food Drive and the total weight of the donations was 6,220 pounds of food! (last year it was 5,978 lbs).

A discussion followed on no space for food during these busy times when many people are donating. Anne Kaiser had stated she will speak to Knights of Columbus on possible date change and recommended speaking to churches for storage space, volunteer recruitment and collaboration. A discussion on the status of the senior center updates- we are receiving quotes on taking the wall down in the senior center currently.

Old Business

- a. Meals on Wheels- we are up to 18 participants for meals on wheels and have 11 volunteer drivers. The congregate program has very low numbers, similar to the counts with the previous vendor. Anne Kaiser suggested reaching out to the churches with meals on wheels flyers so that they are aware of the service.

New Business

- a. **2024 Senior Commission Meeting schedule**

Motion to approve by Judy Benvenuto, seconded by Linda Worden. All in favor, motion approved.

- b. **FY25 Budget Planning**

Amy stated she is looking for any input in the next budget cycle as late December/January is when departments work on budget preparations. A language class instructor was one suggestion made and if there are any additional ideas, wishes, suggestions to please let Amy know.

Citizen's Comments

A question was asked on what school are the interns from. Amy explained the current agreement is with Charter Oak- but we also have internship agreements with Goodwin and Central.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Deirdre Daly; seconded by Judy Benvenuto. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Worden