

Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes
9:30 AM – Senior Center
December 13, 2010

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), C. Pellegrine (Vice-Chair), J. Quarto, A. Holinko, T. Rogers, J. Scottron, D. Nolan, C. Dainton (staff), W. Bigl, S. Gordon, M. Thatcher, B. Lavoie (staff), J. Adamcik, Joan Terry (guest), Carol Phillips (guest), Gianna Stebbins (staff)

REGRETS: T. Quinn, E. Poirier,

- I. **Call to Order:** Vice-Chair C. Pellegrine called the meeting to order at 9:30AM.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes:** The minutes of the **November 8** meeting were accepted as written.
- IV. **Correspondence** – Chair and Staff: C. Pellegrine reviewed her draft letter to Senior Resources regarding the need for geriatric medical services in this area. C. Dainton suggested that it be sent directly to Joan Wessell, Director of Senior Resources. It was approved unanimously that the letter be sent, with information about how to contact the Commission. K. Grunwald will arrange for the letter to be sent.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **Report of Nominating Committee:** J. Quarto had expected Joann McCaughy to attend this meeting. She will not be formally nominated until she attends a meeting.
 - B. **“Other”:** none.
- VI. **Optional Reports** on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations
 - A. **Health Care Services**

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – B. Lavoie reported that there will be a student from ECSU next semester who will be working with Barbara on “At Your Fingertips.” Barbara will contact the COA in Groton to get permission to use their directory as a guide for our publication. There are a large number of clients coming in for Medicare assistance and plan enrollment, and 17 people used the DSS Medicare Bus. Barbara is looking for a nurse to serve on the Wellness Committee to make recommendations re: geriatric services.
 - B. **Social, Recreational and Educational**

Senior Center – C. Dainton distributed copies of her monthly report. She reported on the Veteran’s Day celebration that was last month, which was attended by 120 people.

Senior Center Assoc. –T. Rogers reported that the Executive Committee has agreed to provide some support to the Senior Chorus. C. Pellegrine made some suggestions for people who may be able to help with the Chorus’ needs for a director and an accompanist.

Volunteer Transportation- Gianna Stebbins introduced herself to the members of the Commission and reported that we have 14 drivers and provided 8 trips in the month of November; they have been busier this month. Most trip requests have been for doctor’s appointments. All drivers are using their own vehicles at this time. The farthest trip has been to Hartford.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Advisory Committee: K. Grunwald reported that Masonicare is conducting site work on the property on Maple Road and will be making a final decision about the purchase of this property by the end of the year. They will also be approaching the UConn Water Authority this Thursday to explore the possibility of obtaining water from UConn. There was some discussion about the decreasing demand for age-restricted housing that was recently reported in the Hartford Courant.

Wrights Way, Juniper Hill, Jensen’s Park, Glen Ridge: nothing new to report.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations such as:

Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities: K. Grunwald reported that there will be presentation at the Senior Center on February 23 on resources available for people with disabilities.

Senior Resources of Eastern CT: no report.

VII. Old Business

Long Range Plan Update: K. Grunwald and C. Pellegrine distributed information to update the Long-Range Plan. Members agreed to break up into small groups.

- J. Quarto and A. Holinko agreed to review sections A,B, C, D.
- E, G, H and I will be reviewed by M. Thatcher and D. Nolan.
- S. Gordon, C. Pellegrine, W. Bigl will review sections I, J, K, L, M.

The members returned from their groups to report on their sections. J. Quarto and A. Holinko reported that the word “monitor” should be added prior to “...health promotion activities. “... enhanced geriatric services, that might include the creation of a satellite geriatric clinic. Add: “Examine/monitor the impact of changes in Medicare.” C. Dainton questioned what the role of the Commission would be regarding this? C. Pellegrine stated that the purpose would be to educate the community.

M. Thatcher raised a question about the need for a Senior Job Bank . It was agreed that this will be eliminated as a goal. We will also eliminate the language on “exploring the need for assistive technology for the hearing impaired.” Mary raised a question about the availability of cell phones. B. Lavoie will look into the Safelink Wireless System and will report back on this.

C. Pellegrine reported that under Services and Support the group recommended adding “review of agency funding requests and outreach to homebound and low-income seniors.” Transportation: eliminate “it is difficult to recruit... Add bullet d: “continue to support dissemination; add benches to bus shelters. “

All Commission members approved the proposed changes. K. Grunwald will get this draft out to members prior to the next meeting.

- A. Triad: W. Bigl reported that this is going well, and we have someone who will be taking pictures for the Yellow Dot Program. The next program is on Identity Theft, which will be held at various locations throughout the community.

VIII. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission: none

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10: 41 AM. Next meeting: **Monday, January 10, 2011** at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald