

APPROVED

Commission on Aging

Minutes of March 11, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Will Bigl (2015), April Holinko (2014), Bettejane Karnes, Bev Korba (2014), Laurie McMorrow (2014), Don Nolan (2014), Joan Terry, (2013)
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Estelle Elliot (Wright's Way), Marilyn Gerling (Glen Ridge), Emile Poirier (Jensen's), Martina Wharton (Juniper Hill)
STAFF: Cindy Dainton (Senior Ctr. Coord.), Kevin Grunwald (Dir. of Human Services)
ABSENT: Sam Gordon (2014)

April welcomed Bettejane Karnes as a new commission member.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 25 special meeting were approved as corrected.

Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

Assisted Living – April will call Steve LeGalt of Paradigm Healthcare Development to inquire about the status of his proposed independent living facility in southern Mansfield.

Wellness Center – Beth Hudson Hankins will increase her hours to ten per week in order to take on more responsibility.

Senior Center – Copies of the Senior Center report were distributed. Cindy explained that the Center is developing a questionnaire, based on the principles of account based responsibility, to assess the work done at the Center. Several new van drivers are being processed.

Community Information – Estelle Elliot was welcomed as a representative from Wrights Way. Emile, Marilyn and Martina all reported their communities are active and thriving.

New Business – Several of our commission members attended the February 25 meeting of the Town Council’s personnel committee. At that meeting the Town Manager said that he felt some reorganization of the vacant human services positions might be advantageous. After our commission members reviewed the minutes of the last two personnel committee meetings, we agreed it would be appropriate to both write a letter and speak the next personnel meeting March 18th. Will made a motion, seconded by Bettejane, that a letter be written regarding the hiring for the vacant positions and the fact that our commission has not been asked for input. The motion passed.

Members were encouraged to watch the film called Livable Communities that can be found at cga.ct.gov/coa

Kevin talked about the lack of handicapped parking spaces in downtown Storrs. The matter will be discussed at a Mansfield Traffic Authority meeting on March 12.

Old Business - April expressed the hope that we will be able to have some input with the Mansfield Tomorrow discussions.

Triad – Will described the classes that will be offered at the Senior Police Academy to be held at the Senior Center on Wednesday afternoons beginning April 5th. He encouraged us all to attend.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Terry, secretary

Next Meeting: April 8th

Goals for the Commission on Aging 2012-2013

1. Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for seniors with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs including changing federal benefit programs.
2. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.
3. Advocate for improvements to the local transportation system.
4. Encourage the Downtown Partnership to make the new Storrs downtown senior friendly.
5. Provide information regarding tax relief available to residents.
6. Monitor the development of an independent living/assisted living facility in Mansfield.
7. Support the hiring of a Senior Services Social Worker.
8. Support the implementation of the FoodShare program.