

Mansfield Commission on Aging Agenda
9:30 AM – Mansfield Senior Center
Monday, February 10, 2014

Members: Please call Will Bigl at 860-429-0180 if you cannot attend.

I. Call to Order:

II. Acceptance of Minutes of the **January 13, 2014** meeting.

III. **Correspondence** – Chair and Staff:

IV. **Optional Reports** on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

A. Health, Social, Recreational and Educational:

Human Services Director—Pat Schneider

Senior Center – Cindy Dainton

Senior Center Assoc. –Estelle Elliott

B. Housing:

- 1) Juniper Hill (Martina Wharton); Jensen's Park (Emile Poirier); Glen Ridge; ()
Wrights Way (Estelle Elliot); Assisted Living; Other Related Town and Regional
Organizations.

C. Human Services Advisory Committee: (Joan Terry)

D. TRIAD: (W. Bigl)

V. **New Business**

A—Cynthia Van Zelm from the Mansfield Downtown Partnership.

VI. **Old Business**

VII. **Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission**

VIII. **Adjournment**

Next meeting: **Monday, March 10, 2014 at 9:30am** -- Mansfield Senior Center

DRAFT

Commission on Aging

January 13, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Will Bigl (2015), Sam Gordon (2014), April Holinko (2014), Bettejane Karnes (2015), Bev Korba (2014), Laurie McMorrow (2014), Joan Terry (2014)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Estelle Elliot, (Sr. Ctr. Assn. and Wright's Way); Emile Porier (Jensen's); Martina Wharton (Juniper Hill)

STAFF: Cindy Dainton, Senior Center Coordinator; Patricia Schneider, Human Services Director

Minutes – Bettejane Karnes made a motion, seconded by April Holinko, that the November minutes be accepted as written. Motion passed.

Departmental Update – Pat Schneider said it is the consensus on the department that the Council Personnel Committee be asked to approve the establishment a full-time program coordinator for the senior center in place of the former administrative assistant position. The hiring of a part-time social worker specifically to do outreach will also be requested.

The revamped transportation program is working well. The coordinator is now working 19 hours per week and, in addition to her original duties, is screening requests for out-of-town transportation carefully to keep within budget.

The recommendations of the 2008 Feasibility Study regarding the expansion of the senior center building and parking are considered out of date. A new study will be requested of the Council in the next town budget.

Senior Center Association – Estelle Elliot explained that there is currently no fund raising at the center due to lack of volunteers. Her priority is an effort to make the center a more friendly place. She also hopes to encourage more new members to become active at the center. On March 11, there will be a speaker at the center to tell us how to make the center welcoming. All are encouraged to attend.

Housing – Martina said there are in-house programs at Juniper Hill during the winter and trips will resume when the weather decides it is spring. The residents appreciate the use of the Mansfield van to attend FoodShare distribution.

Emile mentioned that the mayor is coming to speak at Rolling Hills.

Estelle reported that there will be no gazebos installed at Wrights Way as the funding was lost. Some landscape improvements have been done.

20-12-2013 Annual Report – Additions and changes were suggested for the report and the chairman will refine the report to be submitted to the Town Manager's office.

Used Medical Equipment – Bettejane reported on the research she had done looking for a place that will accept used medical equipment. Locally there is no available space but there are several agencies in the region.
She will send publicity to a number of local organizations with this information.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Commission on Aging will be February 10th. Cynthia van Zelm, coordinator of the downtown project, will attend. Commission members are encouraged to come with questions and comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Terry, secretary

COMMISSION ON AGING

The Commission on Aging is charged with responsibility to study the conditions and needs of elderly residents and to evaluate and recommend programs to assist them, also to serve as a resource and to furnish information to those concerned with elderly services.

Accomplishments for FY 2012-2013

- Successfully provided oversight to the development of a volunteer transportation program.
- Supported the successful continuation of a local chapter of TRIAD to focus on senior safety issues.
- Members reviewed applications for funding from non-profit agencies and made recommendations to the Town Manager.
- Continued to ensure that the needs of seniors are represented in the Town's strategic planning initiative.
- Promoted the development of a new Senior Center as a future initiative for the Town Council to consider.
- Monitored 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 benefits programs.
- Continued to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.
- Advocated for the recruitment of a qualified Human Services Director and other staff vacancies.
- Supported the implementation of the food share program with a high rate of success.
- Recruited new members from the residents of senior housing facilities to ensure their representation on the Commission.
- Monitored the development of an independent living/assisted living facility in Mansfield.

Plans for FY 2013-2014

- Continue to 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 benefits programs.
- Continued to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.
- Encourage the Downtown Partnership to make the new Mansfield/Storrs downtown senior friendly.
- Advocate for the development of an Emergency Preparedness Guide for seniors.