

Mansfield Commission on Aging

Minutes of October 19, 2015

Meeting called to order at 9:30

Present: Will Bigl (2018), Laurie McMorrow (2017), Don Nolan (2017), Bettejane Karnes (2018), Nancy Trawick Smith (2017), ,

Staff: Pat Schneider, Human Services Director, Senior Center Interim Program Coordinator

Guest: Cara Webb (in for Sarah Taylor), Nora Stevens, Emily Protzmann

Members Absent: Jennifer Hoskins, Bev Korba, Martina Wharton

Community Representatives: John Adamcik (Wright's Way), David Palmer (Juniper Hill), Judy Bigl (Jensen's)

September 14, 2015 minutes reviewed and motion accepted by Laurie McMorrow and seconded by Bettejane Karnes.

PAT SCHNEIDER'S REPORT: Spoke about changes already done and further changes to be made in order to proceed with accreditation process.

- Floors have been redone.
- Sidewalk has been repaved.
- Building stills need to become more accessible to those with disabilities.
- The senior center is grandfathered in, so no laws are being broken regarding its lack of accommodations; however, it would still be nice to make the building more accessible, especially with the accreditation process coming up.
- Accreditation process will begin this upcoming winter
- Vacancies on commissions- where are they? How can we inform people of them?
- Interviews for the position of Program Coordinator will begin at the start of November.

SARA TAYLOR'S REPORT GIVEN BY CARA WEBB:

- The Pumpkin Fest and 40th Anniversary lunch were both a success.
- New events: Yoga Dance, Bringing the Cultures Together conversational group and trying to get women's A Capella from UConn, Audiologist, Diabetes Management group and Foresters Financial on Social Security, Smiling Seniors UConn Dental students, UConn Health Fair, AARP Safe Driving. Looking to offer Smart Phones Made Easy again – all of this in addition to regularly scheduled classes/activities.
- Association lunch on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.
- Veteran's Day Tribute on Friday, November 13, 2015

- Thanksgiving Luncheon with motivational speaker Beth Usher on Wednesday, November 18, 2015

DAVID PALMER:

- Spoke on the Juniper Hill, all is well, but sad to be turning off water and closing down pavilion for cold weather.
- The snow removal policy issue needs to be resolved (sliding doors, exits and pathways need to be cleared properly)
- New roofs on cottages were held up, may not get done this year.
- Need furniture for indoor of pavilion, should happen this year.
- Will speak to the disabled advisor in December re: volunteers for Disability Advocates group.

JUDY BIGL: Nothing to report on Jensen's

JOHN ADAMCIK: Nothing new to report- wants to bring free Sparks to some folks that cannot visit the Senior Center.

WILL BIGL: He and Bettejane memberships were voted in for another 3 years.

BETTEJANE KARNES:

- October 27 visitation of 2 senior centers (visited 4) they were great. Visiting Farmington and Plainville to check on centers close to our town size.
- Looking for questions to ask them regarding transportation, food delivery, and what they offer to those unable to keep up with non-energetic activities, etc. She brought in two newsletters as samples for us to see what other centers are offering.
- Pointed out that other centers are open certain week nights, some weekends and that they offer outdoor adventure groups.

ANNUAL REPORT: Bettejane moved to accept the annual report. Don Nolan seconded.

WILL BIGL: Have a copy of the letter sent to the Town Council urging them to look into planning for a much needed new Senior Center is scanned and attach to these minutes. (See attached)

PUBLIC: Nora Stevens- handicapped parking spaces at Community Center

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40am

Mansfield Commission on Aging
Wilfred T. Bigl, Chairman
17 Hill Pond Drive
Mansfield, CT. 06268

Mansfield Town Council
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT. 06268

Dear Council members;

Thank you for authorizing recent corrections to structural deficiencies at the Mansfield Senior and Wellness Center on Maple Road. Your interest in the health, comfort and safety of the growing numbers of elderly is greatly appreciated. We are writing to you as members of the Commission on Aging and asking you for further attention.

As most of you know, the Center was built in 1979-1980 and is not adequate to satisfy the expanding interests and needs of the approximately 3,000 seniors now living in Mansfield. That number will increase substantially in the next ten years. We are on the verge of a great population growth spurt and we need to prepare for it. Several factors contributing to this increase are apartments in Downtown Storrs, new families associated with the building of Uconn's Technology Park, and the anticipated development of housing when water and sewer are completed.

Add this to the following;

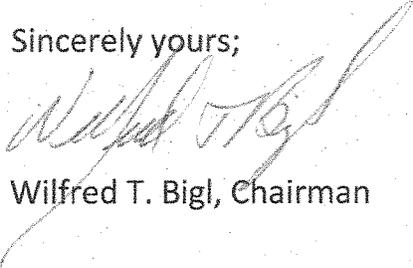
- ❖ Seniors are experiencing longer lives and better health than their parents did.
- ❖ The growing trend to "age in place".
- ❖ That retirees are keeping Mansfield as their primary residence even though they may spend winters in the South.

The fastest growing age group in United States is the elderly. Statistics tell us that 10,000 people EACH DAY reach the age of 65. It is inevitable that a new and larger Senior Center is needed to prepare for the anticipated increase of elderly in

Mansfield. Planning for it now, by reserving land space to build on later, is sound judgement and of paramount importance. Recently, we have seen prime land, suitable for building a Senior Center, taken by other worthy Mansfield interests for their building purposes. Precious building sites can disappear too quickly before the town is ready to build a new Senior Center.

We ask that you keep your loyal and dedicated Senior Citizens in mind when you consider the best use of existing land sites or sites which may be acquired later. Seniors have already outgrown the present structure. They need to know that the Town Council values their ability to continue to serve the town in various ways. They need to know the Town Council will seriously consider reserving a prime building area for the next Senior Center.

Sincerely yours;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Wilfred T. Bigl', is written over the typed name below.

Wilfred T. Bigl, Chairman