

MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

January 9, 2023

Meeting held via Zoom and in person hybrid format.

Town of Mansfield

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 9:45 AM by John Riesen, Chair

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

John Riesen called for a motion to accept the December 12, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Sylvie DelaMotte and carried.

PRESENT: John Riesen (2024), Martina Wharton (2023), Joanne Sousa (2024)
Sylvie DelaMotte (2023), Nancy Trawick-Smith (2023), David Stevens (2023), Laura Austin (2024),

ABSENT: Will Bigl (2024), Devon Hock (2023)

STAFF LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Taylor, Senior Center Supervisor

ABSENT: Patricia Schneider, Director of Human Services.

Sarah reported that Pat's position has changed as of January 1, 2023. Pat will stay on until the end of February primarily to do the budget and to make sure that the recruitment process continues. However, her schedule varies. Pat may be contacted via Email.

CORRESPONDENCE: No official correspondence.

OPTIONAL REPORTS:

Sarah Taylor, Senior Center Supervisor

Sarah reported that:

- The Senior Center had a very busy end of the year.
- Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas were challenging due to the fact that Sharon's position had not been filled. However, things went very well because of the community support that she received.
- Sharon's position has been pulled by Human Resources. Hopefully it will be reposted soon.
- In November a 19 hour kitchen assistant was hired. Her name is Sandra Larsen
- January 3rd, the senior center staff launched a new meal program.
- A second part time driver was hired for 19 hours, starting January 6th. His name is Aiden Kerboy. He will be shadowing Dave and training with him.
- With this position filled, Sarah hopes to prioritize medical appointments.
- Both of the above positions were funded with ARPA Covid funds. That money can be used in two and a half to three years.

- Great programs have been lined up. The tailgate party is back. This month they will be celebrating UCONN Huskies.
- TVCCA lunches have decreased. The new goal is to provide more lunches through the Maple Road Cafe on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can dine in or take out. Each meal will be \$5.00 per person.
- So far, the cost has not been prohibitive. If there is a need for funds, the person can speak to Sarah.
- Last Thursday, 25 people came for lunch.
- The meal program will go on through March. Then Sarah will assess the numbers.

WRTD REPRESENTATIVE: Will Bigl

Will sent John an email stating that he was ill and would not be at the meeting. Also, he had nothing to report.

HOUSING REPRESENTATIVES UPDATES:

Rolling Hills: (Jensen's Park): Will has nothing to report.

Glen Ridge: Vacant.

Juniper Hill Village: No report. Mary Attardo is still unavailable for meetings.

Wrights Way: Vacant.

The question was asked; do we need representation from the different senior housing communities? Is it time to drop the representatives? Does the community or the town benefit from this representation? The Commission members will think it over. A discussion ensued. The conversation was tabled and will be on the February agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

We need to generate another list of Senior Centers to tour. Sarah says that we have a list and we can reevaluate it. We will revisit the list in February.

The "At Your Fingertips" revision is one half completed. There are three more sections to be completed. John would like them as soon as possible. Nancy Trawick- Smith looked over the home care section. She will send it to Martina who is looking over the health care section. John stated that perhaps Devon will look over the compiled drafts and make formatting and font revisions.

Next on the agenda was a discussion about the draft letter to William (Bill) Thorne about his proposal for "Cycling Without Age". The draft letter was read by Martina Wharton. John wondered if Bill had presented his proposal to the town council. If not, John suggested that we state in the letter that Bill should present his proposal to the town council once it is completed. John suggested that we make a motion to send the revised letter to Mr. Thorne. Martina made the motion. The motion seconded by Silvie. The motion carried.

New Business:

Joanne Sousa had a discussion about a seminar that Sarah went to in October. Sarah stated that it was a MCOA conference in MA. There she attended a two part seminar on building a new senior center. She was very impressed with the speaker and excited about his thinking around building senior centers. He put the needs of the seniors first. Sarah will bring information to the next meeting. The question was asked if we could have him speak to the commission or the town council.

A motion was made by Nancy Trawick-Smith to adjourn the meeting. Joanne Sousa seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Martina M. Wharton