

MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

April 10, 2023

Meeting held via Zoom and in person. Hybrid format. Town of Mansfield

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 9:38 AM by John Riesen, Chair

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

John Riesen called for a motion to accept the March 13, 2023 minutes. The motion was accepted by Laura Austin and seconded by Martina Wharton. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: David Stevens (2023), Will Bigl (2024)

STAFF LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Taylor, Senior Center Supervisor; Mary Attardo, Juniper Hill Village Representative

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Lida Bilokur

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

OPTIONAL REPORTS:

- Contact Information for new Director of Human Services: **Allison Maynard, LCSW Director of Human Services,**
MaynardA@mansfield.org P: 860-429-3314

SARAH TAYLOR'S REPORT:

- New Nutrition Coordinator starts today. Her name is Kristen Roccanti.
- Jordan had her baby girl on March 31st. Congrats! Otherwise, all positions are being filled.
- Volunteer Luncheon scheduled
- Seniorhood Fair in the works

WILL BIGL, WRTD REPORT: No Update

HOUSING REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:

Rolling Hills (Jensen's Park): No Update

Glen Ridge: Position vacant.

Juniper Hill Village:

- Mary reports Linda from WRTD came to explain about dial a ride and the buses that come through. A copy of the Rider's Guide is available if anyone wants a copy.
- Mary states they are trying to change the route to Walmart to avoid the long ride.
 - Discussion ensued regarding length of bus rides. Discussed utilizing senior center resources if sudden need for transportation for a Doctors appointment comes up. Sarah reports it is advertised in the newsletter. Every Tuesday they do a shopping run, can go to Walmart, door to door.
 - John asked what are the senior center's goals in terms of transportation picking up slack from dial a ride? Sarah reports right now, they aren't getting a lot of inquiries, but are advertising to support the transportation needs of our folks as much as possible.
 - Sarah reported they are trying to do a lot of trips.
- Mary reports they just had resident's meeting and residents are concerned about the path going to the rehab center. The trucks are damaging the area around the path, so keeping an eye on that.
- Resident's in the cottages are concerned about parking and that there isn't enough in that location. Residents are getting upset if someone is in their parking spot.
- Looking at new ways to fundraise to try to start up the food pantry again, or go on a day trip.
 - Joann brought up a question regarding ideas for fundraising and community members who may be able to help.
- New Officers Resident meeting. A new member Alice will be a new Liaison. Marty ran for Vice President again. President, secretary and treasurer positions have not been renewed/filled.
- A resident just celebrated her 105th birthday and there was a celebration

Wrights Way: Position vacant.

Old Business: A. John expressed thank you to Sarah for making an update to the nutrition section to the At your Fingertips. The newest version of At Your Fingertips is now available online. John stated he sent an email to all of the Town Council members but he couldn't provide an attachment. He provided a link instead. Sarah reports she printed off 15 copies at the front desk for members to take as well.

B. Discussed visit to a Senior Center and getting the architect to come talk to us. Joann mentioned she feels the Town Council is the most important avenue to explore. Town Council meetings are on Mondays. Discussed what are the goals of talking to the Council? Sarah recommended having a conversation with Allison and Ryan and the Council to discuss where they are in the planning of any additions to the Community Center. November was the last time the Senior Center was brought up in the Town Council meeting.

Sarah recommended looking at the website: <https://www.catlinarchitecture.com/> for ideas regarding designing Adult Community Centers.

Martina suggested that we need to find out where the Senior Center project stands before anything else. Sylvie suggests finding out what the Town Council schedule is.

John reports wanting the Town Council to realize that they need to have an architect that specializes in designing senior centers.

Discussed suggesting a meeting with the Mayor and Town Manager to ask for an update where that project is in the grand scheme of things as well as making our point of suggesting an architect that specializes in Senior Center design is recommended.

John volunteers to write the letter to invite them to the next meetings.

C. Availability of Senior Housing in Mansfield. Suggested it would be good to have someone attend the meetings regarding housing in Mansfield. Martina reports she went to the last meeting on March 7th. Martina stated the meeting was very hopeful and the committee had propositions for age related housing and that the developers put more money aside for age related housing. Martina stated they were advocates for Age Related Housing.

New Business: A. No new business.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Lida reports disappointment with not knowing exactly what the Commission is doing and that it was hard to get the information for the meeting. She expresses concern that the public is not aware of the Commission. Discussed no new senior housing in Mansfield despite other towns in the area have been building affordable housing. Lida suggested having the Commission of Aging agenda posted on the bulletin board. She discussed wanting to know the numbers of attendees to the senior center as numbers speak volumes.

Sylvie and Martina addressed some of Lida's concerns. Discussed posting agenda and minutes in Senior Center.

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM. The next regular meeting is May 8, 2023.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Devon Hock.

DRAFT