

## Policy and Planning Board Minutes

Monday, June 1, 2020

Present: Virginia Ferrari, Robert Fox, Karen Kleine, Wendy Kleros, Doris Levinson, Jill Meyer, Barbara Pearson-Rac, Nor Smitobol

Staff: Sue Pfister, Holly Betts, Jason Wilson, Kristen Witt

Absent: Aracelli Cetina

- Approval of May 4, 2020 meeting minutes: W. Kleros/V. Ferrari
- Update on opening of WCSA: Sue Pfister reported that Elaine met with Jim Marpe regarding re-opening of Senior Center; the consensus is that all state senior centers should re-open at the same time (around September 1, 2020). All state senior centers will re-open with re-consideration in August to be sure it's safe; may have to re-think all issues, re: masks, sizes of classes, plastic sheets at reception desk, etc.; staff trying to keep people knowledgeable. Classes on Channel 79 on TV. "Hello Neighbor."
- Elaine Daignault: thanked Sue for doing such a great job transitioning the WCSA during COVID.
- "Hello Neighbor" is a community project call program. Callers check in with vulnerable people re: storm warnings, food, etc. They call approximately 100 people that are participating.
- Karen Kleine: Is there data gathering for phone calls to neighbors? No, there is no response tracking because of confidentiality issues. Needs will be addressed, but nothing formal.  
Kristen Witt: Concerns are being addressed. This a good team effort, though there was initial reluctance to receive a call.
- Sue: Original architect has been paid a small stipend from the Friends to come up floor plan ideas so that social distancing can be adhered to to keep people safe; fewer classes as a result; will limit number of people in center. Sharing ideas with all other centers in the state.
- Holly Betts and Jason Wilson: Summer registration for July, August and September classes begins on Monday, June 8. Jason sending out lists now for 49 classes, 43 meet weekly, approximately 10-14 weeks long; Channel 79, Patty Kondub exercise classes (for Westport residents only); how to reach non-tech savvy people – YouTube

channel; Friday afternoon concerts: July 10<sup>th</sup> by Friends, some on Facebook live; some Staples students will perform

- Jason Wilson: Parkinson's Support Group: 12-13 people interested; Jason co-hosts; the class with 80-90 year olds were happy to see one another; Current Events class on Fridays

- Karen Kleine: What is the effect on loss of revenue?

Some breaking even; there is new software program; donations by Friends are important; Sue wants to keep all programs going to keep people mentally and physically healthy; some classes will no longer have space limit because they will not be in enclosed space; more lecture series this summer. Coffee hour will start in July – August, one hour. June newsletter will go out soon; please bring in ideas from other senior centers and communities.

How about lunch outside in large outdoor venue, as Weston Senior Center did? Everyone could bring lunch; Stamford Senior Center had outdoor meal or ice cream social – must control crowd!

- Audit Report on Town Website: Findings: helpful and justified to center and Sue; current record keeping is antiquated; a new software program will replace old record keeping; for lunch class enrollment, snow days, phone calls, etc.
- Phone Report from Nominating Committee: new Board effective September 1; Andree Brooks new member; Virginia Ferrari as Chair; Doris Levinson as Assistant Chair; Wendy Kleros as Secretary; Karen Kleine as Friends Representative
- News from Kristen Witt: Today is last day for energy assistance; food help to community has been a God-send; problems with isolation
- News from Board Members: Barbara Pearson-Rac: happy to be outside and planting; she is Zooming with friends in Massachusetts and Florida; the news is too depressing to listen to. Wendy Kleros: doing lots of Zooms with exercise and art classes; helpful to see people taking many walks. Doris Levinson: Book Club for Senior Center would be good. Bob Fox: gardening, talking on Zoom, reading, depressing news. Nor Smitobol: did not put on make-up; wife won't let him go out; cleaning up junk, doing origami on Zoom.
- Next meeting: July 6, 2020
- Motion to Adjourn: W. Kleros and D. Levinson