

Westport Center for Senior Activities
Policy & Planning Board Minutes
Monday, July 2, 2012

Present: Howard Maynard, Susan Pfister, John Weiss, Sue Lebrija, Shelly Lipsett, Annette Kirban, Phyliss Groner, Martha Aasen.

Guests/Staff: Tara Lansdale.

Excused: Stephen Colodny, Jack Klinge, Bob McGrath.

The minutes of May 7, 2012 were approved (S. Lipsett/H. Maynard).

Update on Friends of the Westport Center for Senior Activities:

S. Pfister reviewed the upcoming activities of events planned by the Friends' program committee. Professor Mark Schenker's program on Saturday morning has been well attended. Professor Dr. Richard DeAngellis was at the Center on June 8, 15 and 22 to discuss the state of China. The barbeque co-sponsored by the Friends on Saturday, June 16th from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. was a huge success. Thelma Gordon's Mystery Film series will start on July 6th and run for 7 consecutive Friday's. The Friends are planning to hold their annual meeting at the Center on Thursday, July 19th at 3:00 p.m. The public is invited.

Update on ITNCoastal CT:

Coastal UnitedWay of CT has agreed to partner with ITN for one more year which is great news. The board held a budget workshop to review the number of rides, revenue, expenses, etc. and successfully submitted a budget for the next fiscal year. There remains a concern for sustainability and the board is trying real hard to fundraise. In June, 347 rides were delivered; there were 35 users and 31 volunteers. S. Pfister distributed the fee structure as well as the various transportation options for seniors in the community based upon purpose, destination and time. The board found this to be extremely informative.

Update on LINKS:

S. Lebrija and S. Pfister attended the first (and only so far) Advisory Council meeting which was a great experience and very productive. A presentation on LINKS will be held at the WCSA on Monday, September 17th at 1:00 p.m. Executive Director, Marjolijn Wijzenbeek will be on hand to explain the services offered by LINKS. In the meantime, brochures are on hand for folks at the Center and in Room 200.

Update on Baron's Proposed Senior Housing Proposal:

The three RFP submittals for this project have all been thoroughly reviewed by the Baron's South Housing committee in numerous executive sessions and the committee

plans on making a recommendation to the first selectman in August. He will then begin the process of sharing the proposal with the BOF, RTM, etc. S. Pfister continues to see and hear from lots of folks who are interested in this project and are anxious for the shovel to get in the ground.

Report on Social Networking Project:

A Facebook page has been developed for the WCSA and for the DHS and we have “friends” and “likes.” S. Pfister and J. Suchsland will participate in a webinar on July 17 entitled: Marketing Senior Centers on Facebook. A report will be given at the next board meeting.

Update from Municipal Agent, Sue Lebrija:

Fuel assistance has ended and renter’s relief has begun. Clients are beginning to receive their coupons for the Farmer’s Market from the State which allows them to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from participating markets. This makes them very happy! The department continues to be very busy, with many complicated and difficult cases.

Nominating Committee Presents Slate of Candidates:

The nominating committee presented a slate of candidates for 2012-13. The proposed new members’ involvement and backgrounds were reviewed and discussed. Without further discussion or additional nominations, the board VOTED UNANIMOUSLY(motion by H. Maynard/P. Groner): To approve the slate of candidates as proposed by the nominating committee. The in-coming board will be invited to the August meeting to meet the present board at which time S. Pfister will thank those members whose terms are expiring.

Discuss Self-Administered Blood Pressure Machine:

S. Pfister brought to the board’s attention a request from a participant to have a self-administered blood pressure machine at the Center similar to what they have at Stop & Shop. S. Pfister ran this suggestion by other senior center directors and none of them have a self-administered machine. There are many concerns and issues with this suggestion and S. Pfister does not support it. In addition S. Pfister noted that blood pressure screening are held at the Center twice a month by registered nurses who in addition to taking one’s pressure, provide counseling and advice with regards to medications and prescriptions. In Sue’s opinion, it is not an un-met need and if anyone is ever in dire straits to have their blood pressure check, they can have it done by a professional at either EMS or the WWHD. In addition, the town attorney has looked into it along with the insurance company and they, too, have issues and concerns that Sue shared with the board. The board unanimously agreed not to support the suggestion of having a self-monitored blood pressure unit at the Center. S. Pfister will contact the participant to discuss and to explain the board’s decision.

Discuss Credit Card Specifications:

S. Pfister shared the specifics with the board with regards to the fees and terms as they pertain to utilizing MuniPay (Nationwide Payment Solutions) for credit and debit card

payments at the Center. Many seniors often want to pay for classes with these types of cards and are told that they have to pay by either cash or check. Questionnaires were distributed to the seniors during the last registration period. Although there were more No's than Yes's in terms of whether or not they would pay by credit card, the board felt there were enough yes's to pursue the cause. The board also thought this would meet greater needs of future participants. There will be no charge to the Center or Town of Westport. The card user will be absorbing the convenience fee of 2.45% or a minimum of \$1.50. S. Pfister has been in consult with the Finance Department and the Town Attorney. Both are currently reviewing the application and terms of agreement. S. Pfister will follow up on references with other municipalities who are currently using MunicPay. Eventually, the Board of Selectman would have to approve this request.

Suggestion Box:

The suggestion box was empty this month. No news is good news!

The next meeting will take place on Monday, August 6, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned (S. Lipsett/J. Weiss).