

Westport Center for Senior Activities
Policy & Planning Board Minutes
Monday, October 1, 2012

Present: Susan Pfister, John Weiss, Sue Lebrija, Stan Groner, Martha Aasen, Richard Price, Howard Maynard, Annette Kirban.

Excused: Paul Bieler, Stephen Colodny, Jack Klinge, Bob McGrath. Joan Bassett

The minutes of September 10, 2012 were approved (J.Weiss/R. Price).

Update on Friends of the Westport Center for Senior Activities:

S. Pfister reviewed the upcoming activities of events planned by the Friends' program committee which include: Lectures by Professor John Gerlach from Sacred heart University on the State of the Economy; Try to Remember II; Indoor Music Series on Sundays; Intergenerational Trivia Event and Cooking classes by Chef Jeanne Licurse.

Update on ITNCoastal CT:

S. Pfister distributed invitations to ITN's big fundraiser being held at a board member's home on Friday, October 5th at 7:30 p.m. The theme is drive-in with food, refreshments, door prizes and movies. The night is intended to be casual. ITN continues to hold "coffees" in an effort to sign on more volunteer drivers. The ride count continues to be stable with a few new registrants as well. There are now two part-time drivers assisting in meeting the needs of the requested rides.

Update on Baron's Proposed Senior Housing Proposal:

The committee will give a brief update on the project to the RTM on October 2nd at 8:00 p.m. followed by a more detailed outline of the recommended RPF to the Board of Finance on October 3 at 7:00 p.m. Jonathan Rose and his team will be there to present their proposal. On October 29, there will be a special meeting of the RTM. S. Pfister encouraged board members to attend as many of these meetings as possible. It is important for the various boards and commissions to see an interest by having interested folks in the audience.

Goals/Review Mission Statement:

The board reviewed the packet of information distributed by S. Pfister which included by-laws, mission statement, participation policy, committee responsibilities, etc. Howard strongly encouraged all board members to read through the packet of information. There was an overall feeling that the Baron's South Housing proposal is front and center and that the PPB needs to be involved with this project as the board looks to its long-range plan. Howard will take it upon himself to review the long-range report compiled in 2008 by Mike Belaga and his committee and report back at the next board meeting. There was

consensus that the utilization charts/figures would have to be updated. This item will stay on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Update on 9th Annual Photo Exhibition:

Stan Groner is anticipating 100 entries this year which is a little less than last year. A few people have either moved out of the area or have passed. There was also a feeling that those who have entered year after year and have not won may be getting discouraged. The opening gala will be held on Friday, October 26th at 4:00 p.m. with light refreshments to follow. The awards will be presented by the Selectperson from the Towns of Westport and Weston. The exhibit will remain up through the New Year.

Update from Municipal Agent, Sue Lebrija:

Sue L. distributed copies of her Municipal Agent's Report that she completes annually and submits to the Department of Social Services Aging Services Division. In summary, Westport seniors' main concerns continue to be affordable housing, energy assistance, transportation, tax relief and changes in the health care system. Sue expressed some frustration with the tracking and category break down recording form that the State has compiled because it doesn't jive with the DHS's data base. Sue submitted a letter of recommendations and suggestions in an effort to make the report more user friendly.

Other News:

S. Pfister mentioned an upcoming transit district meeting to be held at the Center on October 4th at 10:30 with the Westport Citizens Transit Committee. The purpose of this meeting is to have present riders express their feelings and opinions on the service and to offer suggestions for the future. Board members were encouraged to attend.

Suggestion Box:

Three suggestions were reviewed and discussed. Two of the three will be addressed by S. Pfister. The third, request for more handicapped parking, is harder to accomplish. S. Pfister encouraged board members to help enforce the upper lot as "for those in need" as the sign states.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, November 5, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned (J. Weiss/H. Maynard).