

**Westport Center for Senior Activities
Policy & Planning Board Minutes
Monday, December 3, 2012**

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

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

Guest: Jim Marpe

The minutes of October 1, 2012 were approved (A. Kirban/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 in January and February, Try to Remember II directed by Doris Jacoby, Indoor Music Series beginning on Sunday December 16; Intergenerational Trivia Event in the spring facilitated by Dan Woog, and Cooking classes by Chef Jeanne Licurse on December 13.

Update on ITNCoastal CT:

S. Pfister reported on the successful fundraiser held on October 5th at the Marpe's residence in Westport. The event raised close to \$20,000. ITN continues to hold "coffees" in an effort to sign on more volunteer drivers to meet the demand for rides, S. Pfister reviewed ride counts and membership numbers with the board. Both continue to rise as the service becomes better recognized in the six communities it serves. There are now two part-time drivers assisting in meeting the needs of the requested rides with the intent being that the executive director doesn't have to hit the road as often.

Update on Baron's Proposed Senior Housing Proposal:

After many meetings and much conversation, it appears that the Board of Finance would like a better return to the Town than the Jonathan Rose proposal offers which was the proposal that the Baron's South Committee (BSC) recommended to the First Selectman. The First Selectman and the BSC have agreed to re-bid the project with a few added conditions (more units, less % of affordable, no CCRC) in an attempt to attract more bidders and a better return on the property. The RFP is scheduled to go out with a return date of some time around February/March, 2013. S. Pfister will get Barbara's numbers she presented to the BOF regarding number of senior households, income ranges, etc. per the board's request. S. Lebrija expressed the need for more affordable units and reiterated that housing and transportation continue to be the most sought out services.

Goals/Review Mission Statement:

There continues to be 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. Stan Groner and Richard Price will work with S. Pfister to update the long-range report compiled in 2008. The demographics also need to be updated. There was also discussion regarding the Community Transit District Committee's findings as they, too, are working on their long-range plan. S. Pfister will touch base with T. Giegengack for an update as she is a member of that group.

Update on 9th Annual Photo Exhibition:

Stan Groner reported that there were 103 entries by 31 photographers this year. The opening gala was held on Friday, October 26th and was well attended with First Selectpersons from both Westport and Weston on hand to distribute awards. The exhibit will remain up through the New Year.

Update from Municipal Agent, Sue Lebrija:

S. Lebrija gave an overview of the role of the DHS during Storm Sandy. 81 persons stayed at the shelter set up at Long Lots and then the frail, in need of medical assistance were transitioned to the Center for further sheltering once Longs Lots was shut down. The Center always had a mental health worker, nurse, custodian and social worker on site while sheltering these folks who were at risk. Appropriate discharges were made for all shelter attendees as the Center was anxious to get back to normal operations after having been out of operation for a week. A professional cleaning service was brought in to sanitize the Center prior to it opening back up under normal operating hours.

Other News:

S. Pfister mentioned that the credit card machine is up and operational and all seems to be running smoothly. There is a convenience fee placed on the user if he/she decides to pay via a credit card which is communicated to the user prior to the transaction. Program Specialist, Tara Lansdale reviewed the upcoming calendar highlighting new programs. Registration is set to take place on December 10th for Westport residents and on the 17th for out of town residents.

Suggestion Box:

The suggestions were reviewed and discussed. S. Pfister will handle accordingly.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, January 7, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned (H. Maynard/S. Groner).