

Westport Center for Senior Activities
Policy & Planning Board Minutes
Monday, September 8, 2014

Present: John Weiss, Paul Bieler, Joan Bassett, Stan Groner, Teri Klein, Annette Kirban and Sue Pfister, Sue Lebrija.

Excused: Mildred Bunche, Stephen Colodny, Richard Price, Martha Aasen and Leslie Wolf.

Guest: Holly Betts.

The minutes of July 7, 2014 were approved (Kirban/Klein).

Update on Friends of the Westport Center for Senior Activities:

S. Pfister reviewed the upcoming programs sponsored by the Friends which included the continuation of the AT&T cultural series. The Indoor Music Series will begin in November and run throughout the winter months. The Friends will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, September 11th at 3. Everyone is invited. A calendar of their upcoming programs was distributed.

Update on Baron's Proposed Senior Housing Proposal:

The Planning and Zoning Commission has closed its portion of the public hearing regarding Text Amendment #677. They will now discuss this proposal in work sessions. The next work session is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2014 in the Town Hall auditorium beginning at 7:00 p.m. Your attendance is crucial. S. Pfister will place information and flyers in the lobby reminding folks of this critical meeting. All PPB members are strongly encouraged to attend. S. Pfister will provide transportation if needed.

Review Slate of Candidates for 2014-15:

A slate of candidates was reviewed and unanimously approved (Bassett/Kirban.) The term will run from September 2014 – 2015. John Weiss thanked everyone for their continued support and encouraged good attendance in the upcoming year. S. Pfister will address the high-school representative once the school session is underway. Teri Klein was acknowledged as the representative from the Commission for Senior Services. S. Pfister thanked the board for their commitment and dedication to the Center's well-being.

Report on Annual Lobster/Clambake:

54 persons attended the clambake which was held last month at the beautiful Evan Harding Park in Longshore. Entertainment was provided by Gene Pino and volunteers

from the National Charity League (NCL) offered their services. The weather was terrific and a good time was had by all. S. Pfister thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for mowing the lawn, bringing extra garbage cans and for stopping by to make sure everything was ok.

Report from Municipal Agent, Sue Lebrija:

Sue reported that the fuel program has been transferred from NEON to ABCD out of Bridgeport. Sue is hoping this results in a more efficient and organized system so that the clients are served in a timely manner and the staff doesn't have to spend a lot of time following up with applications.

Sue is in the process of compiling the next issue of Perspective, a semi-annual newsletter that gets mailed out to every senior, registered voter in town.

The board was happy to see Sue and wished her a continued recovery.

Report from Program Manager, Holly Betts:

Holly reviewed the new calendar of activities (Oct. – Dec.) and highlighted some special programs. Holly also discussed ideas and suggestions for the New Year. Nutrition Coordinator, Yoshi Mori will be supervised by Holly and the two of them have new program ideas for the culinary section of the calendar. Last, Holly announced that the congregate meal program will be switching to Creative Culinary as of October 1, 2014. Creative Culinary has years of experience and prides itself on fresh, healthy products. Everyone agreed it was time for a change.

Suggestion Box:

There were two suggestions: one to continue with the Mah-Jongg instruction and the other was to bring a massage therapist on staff.

New Business:

Stan Groner mentioned the issue of transportation and our need to stay on top of how things in the transportation world are changing. He mentioned the fairly new service called Uber Taxi and how these types of options may become competition to services like ITN. S. Pfister emphasized the importance of knowing the driver of the car that you are getting into and that with Uber you really don't ever know who you're getting. ITN screens and does background checks on all its drivers.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, October 6, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned (Bieler/Groner).