

Commission for Senior Services

Minutes of January 15, 2016

Present:

Bob Fatherley, Chair; Jo Fuchs-Luscombe, Ms. Leslie A. Wolf; Mr. Les L. Wolf; Janet Filling, and Judy Guthman

Excused: Peter Kolbrener

Staff: Susan Pfister, Barbara Butler, and Sarah Heath

Guests: Jack Klinge, RTM Health and Human Services Chair; Rev. Ed Horne, HSC Chair

New Business:

- Bob Fatherley welcomed everyone and urged that all Board members be punctual at meetings. When unable to attend meetings, in the future, minutes and agenda will be sent together. Leslie Wolf was nominated as Vice-Chair and Jo Fuchs-Luscombe as Secretary. Motion passed unanimously. Bob suggested and approved that CSS partner with Human Services Commission to advocate for Human Services. Bob urged that we familiarize ourselves with Mission Statement. Specifics of the Mission Statement were examined.
- Other Interests:
  - Tax Filing (Free)
  - Programs that Human Services Department manages
  - Programs that CSS wish to establish
  - Center for Sr. Activities Policy and Planning Board
  - Friends of the Center for Senior Activities
  - Tax Relief Abatement ( RTM for Ordinance Approval)
  - Downtown Planning Committee (senior issues)
  - CSS will be kept informed of All Senior Service concerns by DHS
- Reverend Ed Horne, Chair of HSC addressed the Committee. Spoke of senior housing and services to seniors as major concerns of the HSC. People with disabilities (the hope that it will become a Town commission) and transportation needs as well. Expressed Joint meetings of both the CSS and the HSC are desirable and will be encouraged. Will rotate attendance.
- A list of overlapping Committees will be made available. Mental health and well-being of our communities – an awareness is a must.
- Barbara and Sue pointed to the need to keep folks in key positions informed to needs at the Senior Center. The Senior Center Enhancement information will be made available. Increasing Youth involvement encouraged.
- The CSS Mission Statement will be reviewed at our next meeting. Leslie Wolf will make suggestions.

- Meetings will take place at 9:30AM and agenda will be set by Barbara, Sue, and Bob. Board members input are welcomed.

Department Report:

- Sue Pfister, WCSA Director reported a favorable meeting this week with the subgroup of the Planning and Zoning. Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, P&Z will continue with the Land Use meetings. Sue gave an update of Enhancement Committee activities and the actions steps that will follow.
- Holiday Program: Sarah Heath, DHS Assistant Director reported that the Holiday gift was a huge success. Meals at the Holiday time were delivered to those in need. This program is accomplished with the financial assistance of the Westport Woman's Club. Gift cards also given.
- Fuel Assistance: Program considered successful. State energy assistance available through the DHS Department.
- Next meeting welcomes a Commission photo opportunity

The next CSS meeting will be on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM in Room 201.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30AM