

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 17, 2019

Members Present: Noreen Bachteler, Rosemary Cleary, Ray Guenter, Linda Hanson, Robert Kennedy, Mary Reilly, Donna Sterling, Philip Walker.
Absent: Ellen Phillips
Staff Present: Kathleen Faroni, Gina Marino, Keren Paquette
Guests: Jeffrey Cole, Sheila Diamond, Liz Edgardo, Kevin Farmer, Pamela Hilborn, Rep. Tammy Rush, Exum (D), Billy Taylor

Chairman Philip Walker called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

The minutes for the May 21st meeting were approved unanimously.

Chair's Report

Phil announced that the October meeting will include a report from the Senior Job Bank which is celebrating its 40th anniversary. The December meeting will be focused on the town budget with the Mayor and Town Manager attending, and perhaps a Republican from the Town Council. Questions were raised: would someone from the Board of Education attend? Can the Commission members see a draft budget before the meeting with areas of change highlighted? Phil asked Ray Guenter to follow up.

West Hartford Social Services

Keren Paquette introduced Liz Edgardo, the new Social Work intern. The Community Partnership including the Food Pantry is moving to the 1st floor. The need for food is quite high and growing. Rental Rebate is winding down. Energy Assistance is starting. CTS is the new company for Dial-A-Ride and there is expansion to additional stops. Jeffrey Cole raised some issues that will be brought to Astrid Calderon's attention.

Transportation

Kevin Farmer remarked that ITN is a compliment to Dial-A-Ride. Low income West Hartford residents do not pay a member fee and are entitled to up to 4 rides a week. Free rides are given for eye care appointments for residents in all the towns served. Kevin will be attending the ITN America annual retreat for about 100 local groups. The annual appeal will start shortly and will request matching funds for the challenge grant.

Rep. Tammy Exum (D)

Rep. Exum who represents the 19th District has taken Derek Slap's place on his committees. She spoke about her background and her concerns about the budget. She handed out materials from the Office of Legislative Research "2019 Acts Affecting Seniors." https://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/year/AA/2019AA-0123_2019%20Acts%20Affecting%20Seniors.pdf

Senior Centers

See attached.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th at 10:00am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lynn Silverman, Recording Secretary