

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 19, 2019

Members Present: Noreen Bachteler, Rosemary Cleary, Robert Kennedy, Mary Reilly
Absent: Ray Guenter, Linda Hanson, Ellen Phillips, Donna Sterling, Philip Walker
Staff Present: Kathleen Faroni, Gina Marino, Keren Paquette
Guests: Joe Kolczynski, Helen Rubino-Turco, Mary Silverberg

Acting Chairman Robert Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

Because a quorum was not present, the Minutes of the January 15th meeting were not approved.

Chairman's Report

None

Helen Rubino-Turco

The Director of Leisure and Social Services spoke about the wide variety of program impacting seniors. These include the Parks: planning over 2 years for Wolcott is a collaboration with UConn's department of architecture; there is a grant from state bond funds; tennis, basketball and pickleball courts have been renovated; to be implemented are lighting, reconfiguration of the 2 parking lots, pathways, ADA compliant rest rooms, and renovation of the splash pad. The active and passive use of the parks is a key concern. In the future, Kennedy Park will be tackled. There is a 10 Minute Walk initiative which means that all residents deserve to live within a 10-minute walk of a public park. In addition to the 5 major parks and Westmoor, there are pocket parks – all totaling 10. There is an advisory board helping to organize the April 22nd Earth Day campaign kick-off. The library is seeing a grant to do story time in the parks and there are a number of other ideas on the table, including replicating the Friends of Fernridge Park to help with the fundraising for the other parks.

West Hartford Social Services

Keren Paquette noted that the contract for Dial-A-Ride is out to bid. A survey of riders was most positive with requests to expand hours and service area. The Drop-Box is in place at the Police Station. The brochure about food sources is being updated. The confusion about food stamps during the government shut-down has been ironed out. Energy Assistance continues – the last oil delivery is 3/15. May 1 is the last day to apply for assistance.

Transportation

Mary Silverberg reported that ITN Central has had 2 grants from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; board and staff are working on another. The 10th anniversary is in April. There are 22 drivers, with 15 active. Requests for rides keep growing. The Board would like to add two more people.

Senior Centers

Reports attached. West Hartford Senior Center needs office volunteers. There are issues with the Food Rescue program at Elmwood.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th at 10:00am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23am.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lynn Silverman, Volunteer Recording Secretary