

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 15, 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: Liz Edgardo, Kevin Farmer, Liz Forrest, Pamela Hilborn, Mary Silverberg  
Rep. Tammy Rush, Exum (D), Billy Taylor

Chairman Philip Walker called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

The minutes for the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved unanimously.

**Chair's Report**

Phil Walker said that the ITN meeting for the Mature Driver was a successful and that the Candidates Luncheon program was well attended. He is working on the December meeting about the budget and taxes and has invited the Mayor Cantor, Town Manager Hart and Helen Rubino-Turco to attend.

***West Hartford Social Services***

Keren Paquette spoke about the Dial-A-Ride meetings regarding the issues that have been raised and their resolutions which include fines if corrections are not made by a certain date. More cars and vans are being added. There is a follow-up meeting in November. Mary Silverberg suggested that seniors look at Go-Go Grandparent for rides. It is a dispatching service that does not require a smartphone and puts the rider in touch directly with the Uber or Lyft driver. The rider is signed up with GoGo Grandparent in the same way they would be with Lyft or Uber and it acts as the rider's agent in terms of billing, dispute resolution, etc. The Community Partnership including the Food Pantry has moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The need for food is quite high and growing. Energy Assistance has started.

***Transportation***

Kevin Farmer participated in a presentation to the Court of St. James and Canterbury. New riders have been added. The most rides ever were given in 2018. The biggest challenge is volunteer driver. Kevin attended the ITNAmerica annual retreat for about 100 local groups.

***Martha Church, Director, West Hartford Public Library***

Martha spoke about the enormous changes that the library has undergone. Computers are now part of the basic fabric of libraries, but collections remain the same. The platforms are now physical or on-line. Programming is vast and diverse. Marketing has and will continue to increase. A wide variety of downloadables are available. Staff is always available to provide information and help people with devices. The library budget is about 1.2% of the to municipal budget or about \$52 a year of an individua's taxes. FYI- Ancestry.com is accessible at the library.

***Senior Centers***

See attached.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:46am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Lynn Silverman, Recording Secretary