

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 19, 2019

Members Present: Noreen Bachteler, Rosemary Cleary, Linda Hanson, Robert Kennedy, Ellen Phillips, Mary Reilly, Philip Walker.
Absent: Ray Guenter, Donna Sterling
Staff Present: Keren Paquette
Guests: John Coates, Kevin Farmer, Mary Margaret Girgenti, Pamela Hilborn,

Chairman Philip Walker called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

The corrected minutes for the October 15th meeting were approved unanimously.

Chair's Report

Phil Walker received nice feedback from Martha Church, library director. Next month, the Mayor, Town Manager and a Republican from the Town Council will be attending to speak about the budget and taxes.

Fraud Watch Network

John Coates, an AARP volunteer, presented information about fraud trends, such as imposter scams, debt collection, identity theft (phishing, stealing mail, bogus jobs) and investment fraud. The frauds are online and offline. Please see: <https://www.aarp.org/benefits-discounts/all/fraud-watch-network/>. People can sign up for alerts. See more information: <https://states.aarp.org/tag/fraud-watch-network> and <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/>

West Hartford Social Services

Keren Paquette spoke about the letter Astrid Calderon has sent to individuals using Dial-A-Ride. There has been a time pickup change, Uber and Lyft are no longer being used and the drivers now have cards with the correct phone numbers to be used when asking for a return ride. A survey is being conducted with senior living communities to determine the need for rides. The analysis of the responses will be reviewed by Calderon, Helen Rubino-Turco and Matt Hart. Holiday programs are underway: gift card distribution, home bound deliveries and Adopt-A-Family. There is a new Census Committee. Housing Rehab is up and running, Energy Assistance is busy as is the Choices program.

Seniors Job Bank

Mary Margaret Girgenti reported that the 40th Anniversary Celebration was successful. Grant applications are being written.

Transportation

Kevin Farmer reported that the ride volume continues to increase and that drivers are always needed. ITNCentral is in the midst of its annual appeal. Free rides (up to 4 a week) are available in West Hartford only to low income residents.

Senior Centers

See attached.

Other Business

It was suggested the Center for Medicare Advocacy, the Housing Rehab program and end of life issues be considered for Commission meetings in 2020.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th at 10:00am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lynn Silverman, Recording Secretary

Senior Citizen Advisory Commission Report

Gina Marino, West Hartford Senior Center November 19, 2019

FACILITY UPDATES:

All the computers have been upgraded to accommodate RecDesk. A computer station has been set up at the front desk for our volunteers. Volunteer training is on going.

Senior Center memberships will now be effective for one full year according to the date of registration. New cards with bar codes have been designed and ordered.

Volunteer Office Manual has been updated, printed and will be handed out at the next Volunteer Meeting on 11/20/19

The floors in the kitchen and lounge are scheduled to be replaced on Dec 26 and 27th.

Food Rescue, a fresh, frozen and packaged food donation program sponsored by Trader Joes, is scheduled every Friday at 11:35am. An average of 35 seniors are benefiting each week.

Lox, Stock & Bagels recently began donating their left over bagels to the WHSC. A volunteer goes over at 4:50pm to pick them up Monday – Thursday. Our seniors are enjoying this complimentary treat! Looking for additional volunteers to assist in the pick-up.

Both Senior Centers will be closed the day after Thanksgiving.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM:

West Hartford Food Pantry- Collected 45 food and health and beauty items for the month of October.

Wrap Up:

October 18 –Census 2020. Will be repeated on 12/17

October 22, Entertainment Showcase was very successful showing a profit of over \$4000

October 31 – Halloween Dance had 50 attendees and 23 people attended in a costume.

November 12 -Essential Oils in our evening series had 22 people in attendance.

November 12, 2019 - YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR AND YOUR BRAIN- 18 people attended.

November 13 The Jewel Collection-Senior Variety Show –We served 90 lunches and received wonderful reviews from the attendees

November 16 – Face to Face- Open Rehearsal with Hartt Student Orchestra was a phenomenal intergenerational experience. 45 students performed to an audience of approximately the same size.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

December 9, 2019- From an Open Heart – 1:30pm

Shaunda Hale Opalacz has gone from working in the Connecticut prison system for 20 years to writing her first book of poetry, From an Open Heart, and starting her business Love Creations by Shaunda LLC. She will read her love poems.

December 11, 2019 - Christmas with Jose Paulo-1:00pm

Our luncheon, catered by Effie's Place, will include: Brazilian style rice with veggies & beans, baked salmon, grilled kebob featuring Brazilian sausage, chicken & beef, rolls & butter, dessert, Pre-registration required. Jose brings an exciting show that features Christmas songs from around the world. Cost: \$10 Member; \$12 Nonmember. Cosponsor: Atria Senior Living.

December 13, 2019 Reflections, A Family Memoir -11:00-12:00pm

Bruce Eliot Bidwell is a Connecticut Yankee whose family helped to settle Hartford in 1636. Join Bruce, author of the book "Reflections" as he tells his personal story about The Bidwells' who grew up in the 1930's/40's in West Hartford. Program is FREE.

December 16, 2019 – History For Fun. – The Golden Years of Television Comedy. 1:30-2:30pm

Join us for a fun hour of watching clips from the early days of television! Program is FREE.

December 17, 2019 - United States Census 2020 – 9:00-10:30am

Attend this free information session presented by Carla Craig, U.S. Census Bureau.

December 18, 2019 – Musical Stars of David – 1:00-2:30pm

Celebrate Hanukkah with the talented Blaise Tramazzo as he presents a musical tribute to popular Jewish entertainers and songwriters. Meal prepared by the Executive Chef, Marcos Calderon of Hoffman SummerWood. Menu includes: Chicken breast stuffed with cornbread and cranberries, roasted green beans, Latkes with applesauce, salad, rolls and dessert. Cost: \$10 M, \$12 NM. Co-sponsor: Hoffman Summerwood.

Lunch & Learns:

November 20 -VASCULAR HEALTH

Speaker: Dr. Bing Shue MD. Free screening after the presentation. Light Lunch Served. \$3.00 M; \$5.00NM. Pre-registration required.

Bagel Breakfast:

December 10, 2019 - Bagel Breakfast -LIFELINE- Darlene Messier, Territory Manager- 9:00-10:00am

Cost: \$2M: \$4NM. Co-sponsor: Café Lox Stock & Bagels.

Classes:

Mah Jongg- New session was added on 11/12 to accommodate all the people on the wait list. This class is now also full. 2020 class starts in February.

iPhone Tutor – Nov. 27th from 9am-11:30am. Call for an appointment Free to members; \$8NM.

SMART DRIVER CLASS - Save at least 5% on your Liability Auto Insurance. AARP sponsors a Smart Driver Program encompassing the latest techniques in driving with special emphasis on defensive driving.

There is a **\$15** fee for AARP Members (card must be presented with payment) and a **\$20** fee for all non-AARP members. This is a newly revised course with new course material and updated workbooks and videos.

West Hartford Senior Center Wednesdays: Dec. (No Class), Jan. 29, Feb. 26 9:00 am-1:00 pm

FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

December 6, 2019 - Totally Terrific Tag Sale – 10:00-3:00pm.

Medicare Rentals:

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CENTER		
FREE MEDICARE INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS		
Policy	Day, Date	Time
Aetna	Friday, November 1 st	1:00 - 3:00 pm
	Wednesday, November 13 th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Connecticare	Friday, October 25 th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
	Friday, November 1 st	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
	Friday, November 22 nd	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
United Healthcare	Wednesday, October 16 th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
	Friday, October 25 th	1:00 - 3:00 pm
	Wednesday, November 6 th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
	Friday, November 22 nd	1:00 - 3:00 pm