

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 19, 2018

Members Present: Noreen Bachteler, Ray Guenter, Robert Kennedy, Mary Reilly, Donna Sterling,
Absent: Rosemary Cleary, Linda Hanson, Ellen Phillips, Philip Walker
Staff Present: Kathleen Faroni, Gina Marino, Keren Paquette
Guests: Kim Radda, Mary Silverberg, Jean Schensul, Rep. Joe Verrengia

Acting Chairman Ray Guenter called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

The Minutes of the May 16, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

No report.

Rep. Joe Verrengia

Rep. Verrengia from the 20th District is co-chair of the Public Safety Committee which also oversees gaming. It has been difficult getting to a "middle ground" on agreements with tribal entities. The state is considering sports betting. The Medicare Savings program was not decreased. There is a special task force looking into transportation of disabled persons and seniors. Please see this attached report: Acts Affecting Seniors.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2018/rpt/pdf/2018-R-0125.pdf>

Jean Schensul – Institute for Community Research

Dr. Schensul (Jay) is the Senior Scientist and Founding Director. She is working with the West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission (WHSAPC) and community partners to develop a community needs assessment and strategic plan to reduce prescription drug misuse among West Hartford youth and young adults, with particular attention on minority, high-risk youth. The goals are to prevent non-prescription drug use (recreational, self-medication) and underage alcohol use. The committee gathers data, develops plans to prevent access and creates youth-led spaces to prevent drug use. Strategies: at home, keep medications locked; develop messages including a video for WHCTV.

West Hartford Social Services

Keren Paquette said that the Rental Rebate problem is now taking appointments. Because of Dial-A-Ride funding cuts, the staff is continuing to work with residents and managers of senior residences. There is a part-time social worker position open. Farmers' Market coupons are available. There is an income limit for the coupons.

Transportation

Mary Silverberg reported that ITN Central has received a grant from the West Hartford Rotary to help fund low-income riders. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving award an unrestricted grant of \$5,000 to be used in the current and next fiscal year. There are currently about 30 drivers and over 80 donors.

Seniors Job Bank

No report.

Mayor Shari Cantor

Mayor Cantor spoke about “pay as you throw” which has not yet been approved. The plan could help with the trash crisis in the Northeast: landfills are closing, the tipping fee for tonnage is up, China is taking over the market for recyclables. Rhode Island and Massachusetts are experimenting with reducing containers and/or paying for bags. There is a new Police Chief and a new Assistant Fire Chief.

Senior Centers

Not received.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18th at 10:00am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47am.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lynn Silverman
Volunteer Recording Secretary