

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 18, 2020

Members Present: Noreen Bachteler, Rosemary Cleary, Robert Kennedy, Mary Reilly, Philip Walker  
Absent: Ray Guenter, Linda Hanson, Ellen Phillips, Donna Sterling  
Town: Mayor Shari Cantor, Town Manager Matt Hart, Peter Privitera, Joseph Dakers  
Staff Present: Kathleen Faroni, Keren Paquette  
Guests: Claudette Czarnecki, Edmundo Delgado, Sheila Diamond, Kevin Farmer, Marlane Fleisher, Pamela Hilborn, Sandra Hillhouse, Elizabeth Johnson, Margaret Reilly-Duffy, Andee Robinson, Elliott Rosenberg, Meryl Rosenberg, Jim Schwartzhaupt, Susan Staunton, Vincent Staunton, Bobbie Woronow.

Chairman Philip Walker called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.  
The minutes for the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved unanimously.

**Chair's Report**

Phil Walker reported that he told Senator Derek Slap of the motion that commended his efforts to support the bill on age discrimination.

***West Hartford Social Services***

Keren Paquette reported that Astrid Calderone is part of the committee on the 2020 Census. All residents will be receiving a mailing. Keren and a co-worker have started a support group for people with a hoarding disorder.

***Seniors Job Bank***

Sheila Diamond thanked the Mayor and Town Manager for their ongoing support. There have been over 1,200 requests for help and 650 job seekers. The organization works with both homeowners/renters and businesses.

***Transportation***

Kevin Farmer noted that that ITN Central serves 15 towns. A grant of \$22,000 from the Fisher Foundation and 5 individuals has been received to hire a part-time ride coordinator.

***The Town***

Chairman Walker said that we are most fortunate to have a Town Council that has great concern and care for all the tax- payers and residents.

Please refer to the PowerPoint Presentation that Mayor Cantor, Town Manager Hart and Director of Assessment Dakers used for their discussion.

Some comments and replies to questions:

The revenue stream for the town is fairly stable, mostly residential, with a large retail component, small corporate component. Education is the largest percentage, followed by Public Safety and Public Works. Assessments took place in 2011 and 2016, every 5 years. Connecticut as a whole relies on property taxes, state aide and user fees. The grand list will rarely grow fast enough to keep pace with fixed and semi-fixed costs. 17% of the town's population is 65 and over. There are multiple issues with the MDC. All towns have state special education mandates.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1 at 10:00am.

The meeting adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Lynn Silverman, Recording Secretary