

SENIOR SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Middletown Senior Center
150 William Street
February 7, 2012
5:00 PM

1. Members Present: Councilman Philip Pessina, Commissioners: Ed Dypa, Annabelle Malone, Claude Hendrickson, and Patricia Jackowski, William Wasch and Tom Hutton

Absent: Councilman Ron Klattenberg, Ed Rubacha

Staff Present: Raymond A. Santostefano, Interim Senior Center Director, Stephan Allison, Interim Program Manager and Heidi Geores, Senior Center Staff

Absent: None

General Public: a Middletown Press representative

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 5:01.

3. Public Hearing: None

4. Approval of January Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2012 was made by Chairman Ed Dypa, seconded by Patricia Jackowski and Annabelle Malone. Commissioner Tom Hutton abstained as he is new to the commission this month.

Departmental Reports:

Director Raymond A. Santostefano:

- The Senior Center had more issues with the elevator which took a visit from the State Elevator inspector to be corrected.
- There has been a resolution to the contract negotiations with the Congregation Adath Israel regarding the lease of the parking lot.
- The Tai Chi program was highlighted in the Hartford Current
- Interim Program Manager, Stephan Allison met with all program instructors regarding their needs for the Eckersley Hall Building.
- The Senior Center continues to hold successful monthly free breakfasts and Friday dinners.
- 10% of the Senior Center's expenditure budget has been frozen. There was discussion regarding the legality of this and the process of reclaiming funds for use by the department.
- Municipal Agent for the Elderly, Laura Runte had 21 unique visits and 32 other complaints that she assisted patrons with.

Program Updates – Stephan Allison

- Programs at the Senior Center are doing well

- There was a meeting with the Green Street Arts Center with discussion on providing a congregate location for possible evening programs for seniors. Commissioner Pessina addressed safety concerns of the North End and the building's ADA accessibility.
- There was a meeting with all program instructors to gather program needs in regards to space available at the Eckersley Hall building.
- Thank you to the Senior Center staff who work towards helping to make programs successful and meet the needs of patrons.

Old Business

- **Update on New Senior Center:**
 - Commission Chairperson, Ed Dypa inquired about the progress of the department reorganization and how that will impact the layout of the new floor plan at the Eckersley Hall building. Councilman Philip Pessina advised that decisions are expected to be made by the end of February or the beginning of March.
 - Commissioner Tom Hutton has asked to have copies of floor plans drawn to date. Interim Director, Raymond A. Santostefano will provide the drawings.
- **Building Committee Update: Councilman Ron Klattenberg not present to discuss**
- **Update on Triad:**
 - Commissioner Dypa reports that the Chronicle will be publishing a monthly article for Seniors. Laura Fault of Water's Edge is the liaison with the Chronicle. Also, residents of the Westfield section of town will begin receiving the Middletown edition of the Chronicle where they had been receiving the Cromwell edition.

New Business:

- **Defibrillator Report:**
 - Interim Director, Raymond A. Santostefano indicated that he has not been able to secure funding for this equipment through the Health Department.
 - Councilman Philip Pessina thinks that the Senior Center should be able to secure a defibrillator with funds that may be available through Bruce Driska at Emergency Management. If this is not possible he will sponsor the expenditure through the Common Council.
 - Commissioner Patricia Jackowski advised the commission on the user-friendly operation of the equipment.

Miscellaneous:

- Commission Chairman, Ed Dypa advised the group of the passing of a Senior Tax Relief Program that is coming available through the Tax Assessors Office. Eligibility for the program is dependant on income and forms must be received in the Tax Assessors Office by May 1, 2012 for the 2013 submitting year.
- Commissioner Patricia Jackowski referenced a recently published article regarding the removal of the TV from the Mayor's Office, and inquired about the possibility of putting it to use in the new Senior Center. Commissioner Philip

Pessina also indicated that he was aware of an organization that may be willing to donate a large screen TV.

- Commissioner Patricia Jackowski suggested that the Commission create and publicize a mission statement that will reach and energize the senior community thereby meeting the needs of more seniors in our area. Interim Director, Raymond A. Santostefano shared the current Senior Center Mission Statement and a few other towns' statements with the group.

Adjournment: Commissioner Dypa moved to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Claude Hendrickson and unanimously passed at 6:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Geores