

SENIOR SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Middletown Senior Center

150 William Street

June 5, 2012

5:00 PM

1. Members Present:, Commissioners: Ed Dypa, Ed Rubacha, Claude Hendrickson, William Wasch, Patricia Jackowski, Annabelle Malone, Tom Hutton

Absent: Councilman Phillip Pessina, Councilman Ron Klattenberg

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

Absent: none

General Public: Rex Ritchie, resident of Sbona Tower

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 5:05.

3. Public Hearing: None

4. Approval of August Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes the August 20, 2012 was made by Annabelle Malone and seconded by Pat Jackowski.

Departmental Reports:

Director Raymond A. Santostefano:

- A kiln in the ceramics room had been in need of some repair. Ordered parts were installed by the BOE electrician. He will need to come back to complete additional work before it can be used by the class.
- CRT had been providing the congregate meal and homebound delivery meal service at Sbona Tower. CW Resources out of New Britain has taken over this service as of October 1, 2012.
- Senator Paul Doyle came in Friday, September 28, 2012 and encouraged seniors to take advantage of senior expos.

Manager Heidi Geores:

- A program adjustment to Yoga has allowed for the number of participants to double.
- There has been an increase in unique programming – informational seminars and general interest/cultural programs.
- Establishing partnerships with area resources – Middletown Public Schools, Wesleyan University, the Historical Society, Youth Services, etc. are being pursued.

Old Business

➤ Building Committee Update:

- Chairperson, Ed Dypa informed the group that the cost of the Eckersley Hall Building project will be lowered by a minimum of \$300,000 with the bonding of the Veteran's Museum being resolved. Additionally, the submission and approval of a grant from the historic building registry is expected to further reduce the actual cost of the building project. Chairperson Dypa also informed the commission that Councilman Ron

Klattenberg, Councilman Philip Pessina and Councilman Tom Serra will be filming an episode of the Jerry Ranko Show on Comcast Television's local channel to discuss the Eckersley Hall Building project. Airing dates and times will be provided so that the public will know when to tune in.

- Chairperson, Ed Dypa discussed that a member of the public questioned whether or not the Eckersley Hall building could be used as a shelter in the event of an emergency as Middletown High is across town from many citizens. He did inform that individual that, that decision would have to be made by the Mayor's office in collaboration with Emergency Management.
- Commissioner Patricia Jackowski expressed to the group her thoughts about how we can make the public more aware of all of the services and programs that are offered at the current senior center and how the proposed new center can positively expound upon them while allowing for more programs to be brought in.

➤ **Update on Triad:**

- Chairman Ed Dypa informed the group that our local Triad had recently attended a meeting held at the Glastonbury senior center. There will be a state-wide Triad meeting in Glastonbury on November 1, 2012 from 8:30-12:30 with guest speakers. He also stated that other towns are also seeking ways to bring more area business into active participation in their Triad groups.

➤ **Defibrillator Report:**

- Ray Santostefano informed the group that the new defibrillator has been mounted in the main room on the first floor of the senior center. Senior center staff has been trained by the Assistant Chief of Middletown Fire Department, John Woron. A commemorative plaque is on order naming D'Angelo's and Biega's funeral homes as donators of funds making this purchase possible. A photo-op / press release was suggested by Commissioner Patricia Jackowski.

New Business:

➤ **New Senior Center Positions; Senior Services Specialist and Senior Center Manager:**

- Interim Director Raymond A. Santostefano informed the commission of the staffing changes that have taken place recently at the senior center. Laura Runte has been given the title of Senior Services Specialist to reflect her taking on the responsibilities of the Municipal Agent for the Elderly and training to become a CHOICES Specialist through Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging. He also notified the group that Heidi Geores has been promoted to Senior Center Manager.

➤ **ADA Compliance at the Senior Center**

- The responsibilities of the ADA Compliance Officer have been delegated to Laura Runte. This statement brought to light the issue that the Senior Center as a department has been delegated additional responsibilities while currently operating with fewer staff members. Raymond Santostefano informed the group that he would like to see at least one additional part time employee hired and that he will be asking the Common Counsel to fund that new position in the proposed budget for the new fiscal year.

- **October 4th – Senator Paul Doyle, 6th annual 9th District Senior Expo – Cromwell Senior Center:**
 - Interim Director Raymond A. Santostefano reminded the group that the City of Middletown Senator Paul Doyle visited the Middletown Senior Center. The Middletown Senior Center is offering free transportation to this event.
- **October 5th – Senior Resources Mid-State Healthy Living Expo at AME Zion Church:**
 - A table has been reserved by the Middletown Senior Center and will be staffed by Heidi Geores. The Senior Center is providing free transportation to this event. Pat Jackowski has provided Heidi with ten different booklets to distribute at the event. The booklets will be labeled to inform patrons that they are being provided by the Senior Services Commission.
- **Senior bus Trip; minimum number of participation criteria:**
 - Interim Director Raymond A. Santostefano brought to the commission's attention that the Senior Center's bus has at times run trips with minimal participation. He asked the commissioners to discuss whether or not they should implement a regulation stating that there has to be a certain minimum number of patrons signed up for trips in order for the bus to go out. He supplied the group with information regarding what comparable towns are doing with their bus trips. After a brief discussion, Pat Jackowski motioned that the group vote that there would be no minimum number of participants on bus trips. Annabelle Malone seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous: MAT / Dial-A-Ride:

- Interim Director Raymond A. Santostefano informed the group that the City is funding MAT / Dial-A-Ride \$83,166 in the 2012-13 FY and provided some statistical data regarding the programs. There was some discussion about the possibility of the City taking over the Dial-A-Ride program and what that would entail. There was also discussion about a new clause inserted in the contract speaking to limiting the length of time seniors and disabled individuals will be kept waiting for their ride to be no longer than one half hour (30 minutes). Pat Jackowski motioned that the group vote on continuing to financially support MAT in running the Dial-A-Ride program and the specified 30 minute wait limit. The motion was seconded by Tom Hutton and was passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 6:07

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Geores