

Branford Commission of Services for the Elderly

Laurie Rockwell – Chair
Anita Visentin Perito – Vice Chair
Patricia B. Torre

Patricia Brownell
Susan Cosgrove Barnes
Mary Hahn

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BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Meeting Minutes September 14, 2017

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm at the Branford Fire Department by Chair Laurie Rockwell. Roll Call: Patricia Torre, Mary Hahn, Luba Mebert Schmid, Laurie Rockwell, Patricia Brownell and Jean Richo. Also in attendance: First Selectman James Cosgrove, Director Dagmar Ridgway and Activities Coordinator Nancy Cohen.

- I. Approval of the Minutes - Motion to Approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2017 meeting by Pat Brownell. Vote to approve: Unanimous.
- II. Director's Report – Dagmar Ridgway delivered the Director's Report, including 6/30/17 year-end data and financials, Senior Center Statistics, Repairs & Maintenance Account status, Medical Transportation finances, 2017/18 Budget and open positions. She congratulated Nancy Cohen now celebrating 10 years at Canoe Brook. Also discussed: staffing, issues in the current building (Bocce court repairs and the Brady Room updated), vehicle acquisition and the anticipated process of replacing a bus. Recruitment for new Medical Transportation Drivers is underway. The YMCA and Doug Shaw stepped up to enable Seniors to continue their Senior Swim program at reduced rates due to the recent closure of the WIS pool. It's Senior Center Month! Picnic at Foote Park postponed to 9/29 due to weather. The Aging Mastery Series was very well received and a new session beginning on 9/26. Age 50 and over can enroll. Grant Money subsidizes the program for this session.
- III. Social Services Report was presented by Director Ridgway. It included updates on the Rent Rebate Program and that Heating Assistance letters will be going out. She detailed the Operation Fuel program and updated the commission on the assistance the center provided when an elevator in a housing complex was out of service.
- IV. Programming/Activities – Nancy Cohen provided an update including the Christmas in July Sale which brought in \$199.75, an additional Fitness Class offering, great Foreign Language class opportunities, Readers Theater Group and the expanding of literacy, intergenerational and mentoring programs with the town schools. Upcoming events include the Annual Autumn Dinner party, Happy Hour at the brewery and the Men's Focus Group meeting at G Bakery.
- V. First Selectman Cosgrove updated the commission on the status of the plans for the new facility.
- VI. Citizens Comments – Genevieve Goff questioned the Selectman about elevators and restroom accessibility. George Dwyer addressed the commission on a variety of issues. Carl Dawson addressed the commission requesting a presentation from the First Selectman about the new facility. Marge Schneider, who is new to the area, "applauds the center". She is thrilled with the diverse offerings and programs. Dorothy Ricker asked the Commission about Hurricane relief donations.

A motion to Adjourn at 6:05 was made by Mary Hahn, seconded by Pat Brownell and was followed by a Unanimous vote to approve. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted by Doreen F. Denhardt, Commission Clerk