

DARIEN SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of May 11, 2012

Present: Olive Hauser, Debra Hertz, Nancy Herling, Jennifer Geddes, Ali Ramsteck, Holly Hawes, Inta Adams, Polly Lowman, Beverly Kelsey

Minutes: Minutes of the April 13, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items Covered:

- 1. Choices Training:** Ali Ramsteck reviewed with us the training program she is completing that educates attendees about the various Medical insurance options for seniors that are available. It is offered by the Southwest Agency on Aging.
- 2. Renters Rebate Program:** This program will give a rebate to elderly and disabled individuals who are renting and fall below a minimum income level.
- 3. DCA'S new Executive Director:** Amy Bell has been hired as the new Executive Director of the DCA. Amy has extensive volunteer experience in the community. She hopes to bring the DCA to the next level in terms of programs and partnerships with the town.
- 4. Review of this Fiscal Year:** DSS has spent more of its allotment of emergency funds than in previous years at this time.
- 5. Update from the Commission on Aging:** Jennifer Geddes gave an update on the Commission on Aging. The tax rebate program will be presented to the Board of Finance in September.

Other Business:

- 1. Salvation Army:** Olive clarified that the Salvation Army is seeking additional candidates for the Board which meets *only* four times a year.
- 2. Volunteer of the Year:** DSS Commission member Polly Lowman was congratulated for being named Volunteer of the Year. Polly has worked tirelessly for DSS as well as many other community organizations.
- 3. Allen O'Neil Update:** Phase One is moving along well with all families relocated and the site cordoned off for demolition.
- 4. Edgerton Senior Housing Proposal:** Susan Marks has joined the committee. Bruce Hill is the new Chairperson, replacing Jenny Streeter. Discussions are still taking place with regard to the size and number of the units to be constructed.
- 5. YMCA Community Leader Meeting:** The YMCA hosted a breakfast meeting. The purpose was to provide an update on the YMCA expansion, to review

their mission with community leaders and discuss how else they might be of service in the community.

6. **Future Guest Attendees at DSSC meetings:** The Commission agreed that it would be valuable to invite guest speakers from various town agencies to our monthly meetings to provide updates on their group's activities and services.

Some names suggested include:

Beth Paris, Director of the Senior Center

Gina Blum, Director of Aging in Place + Gallivant,

Arthur Anderson, Project Manager of the Allen O'Neill renovations

Kathy Gilbert, DHS Social Worker

Duane Lovello, Chief of Police

Marc McEwan, Darien Deputy Fire Marshall and Emergency

Management Director

Respectively Submitted:

Beverly Kelsey