

Human Services Commission Meeting

Minutes

October 14, 2016

Attending: Olive Hauser, Ali Ramsteck, Rachel Martin, Holly Hawes, Beverly Kelsey, Landon Reesor, Polly Lowman, Melisse Reardon

Welcome: Landon Reesor was introduced as a new board member.

Minutes: The minutes of September 9, 2016 were approved as presented.

Guest Speaker: Lavi Ben-Zvi, Coordinator of Social Workers in Darien Public Schools was the guest speaker this month. Lavi's responsibilities include assessing the needs of families K-12. The families' needs vary and include financial and custodial issues. The goal is to provide a wide umbrella of support and Lavi works closely with school psychologists/social workers and guidance (especially 504 plans) as well as the Human Services Department to determine actual need and to have a greater impact. Commission members suggested reaching out to the various sport leagues in town (coaches) as well as the librarians to watch for unusual behavior that may signal a red flag.

Blight Ordinance Update: The Blight Ordinance is going before the RTM on 10/24/16. The Commission will see a final draft of the Ordinance before the meeting. Under this Ordinance, Darien Human Services will be available to guide homeowners/residents as needed. The Department supports the Ordinance in principle. Frank Kemp has asked Rachel Martin and Ali Ramsteck to be at the RTM Meeting.

Draft Letter to Planning and Zoning: Olive presented the draft written on behalf of the Human Services Department and is looking for feedback from commission members.

Chairman's Report: Rachel and her 16 year old daughter are looking to coordinate with other students at the high school to help with Human Services programs. Olive suggested that Diane Barston would be a good person for them to work with in this endeavor.

Department's Report: The department is in the middle of energy assistance, starting to work on Medicare Part D enrollment and discussing Holiday Programs. Olive is hoping to get more individuals and groups to adopt families.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melisse Reardon