

DRAFT
TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Joseph Pankowski, Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Vice Chair; Ron Heinbaugh, Mary McCarthy, Pat Morgan, Amy Squyres, Tom Valentino, Robin Woods

ABSENT: Charlie England

OTHERS: Beth Paris, Senior Center Coordinator; Olive Hauser, ex-officio/Social Services Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pankowski called to order the regular meeting at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

The following changes were made to the November Minutes:
Page 2, New Business, first sentence, delete *in an advisory role*

**** MS. MORGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGE TO THE NOVEMBER MINUTES, AND TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS MODIFIED.**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Ms. Paris reported that \$2,000.00 was raised at the holiday fair. She is working on the Policy Manual. Darien High Seniors came to the High Tea. It proved to be successful and will be repeated in April. It was suggested that the newsletter be reformatted. Since the change, the newsletter is easier to read and follow. There is a link in the newsletter to Gallivant and Aging in Place.

The pre-Thanksgiving lunch had 107 in attendance.

Joshua Fisher of the *Darien Times* has put in the newspaper a bolded section for the Senior Center. It gives prominence to the Center's activities and events.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

Ms. Hauser reported that she is receiving energy assistance applications. Some seniors have too many assets to qualify for the program. They may still be eligible for Operation Fuel or Darien Fuel Bank.

Food gift cards were given out at Thanksgiving and will be given out at Christmas time as well.

The Senior Housing Christmas party will take place on December 17th in the Community Room. Ms. Mary Burnett is working on the party with an active Senior Housing tenant.

AIP is working on the Development Fund. There is a good Board, and the pledges thus far are good.

Gallivant has a new car. An additional driver is needed, as Rick is cutting back his days by one. The new person will drive on Friday and Saturday, and the new car will be used on Saturday. Gallivant is looking to increase the number of people using this service.

Ms. McCarthy inquired about Angel Foods. Ms. Hauser said that the program is being used.

Top Chef is a catering service that delivers individual frozen meals to ones' home for a \$15 delivery fee. The food and service is reported to be very good.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Woods reported that January 7 is the deadline for the Architects to submit their application. The Arts Council will keep their space in this building. They were pleased with the outcome. She said her meeting will take place every Wednesday at noon at Town Hall. Norm Guimond, who chairs the Building Committee, supports our efforts for the new Senior Center.

Ms. McCarthy reported that she received an e-mail from a BOF member who liked her letter. She will send it to the RTM at a later date and copy Ms. Swiatek.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Valentino reported that the Census numbers are coming out December 31. He said that the findings will be interesting. An increase in senior population numbers will be helpful for our causes.

Ms. Swiatek joined the meeting and said that the budget is being worked on now and is due on December 30. She said that no new initiatives will be considered without financial stats attached.

She said that the Public Works department is working hard to keep the Center safe and in good repair.

Ms. Swiatek said that Mr. Kilduff reported that the Center is the most expensive property to maintain that the Town owns. Action must be taken. The Board of Education plans to move over the summer.

The Architect will be chosen at the end of January 2011. The Plans will then be developed. Mr. Kilduff is working on getting the teams in place.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MS. SQUYRES SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 19, at 9:00 a.m., Room 119, Darien Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hohlweck,
Recording Secretary

Attachment (Senior Center Report)

Darien Senior Activities Center
Commission on Aging
Senior Center Report
December 15, 2010
Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Center Coordinator

December is filled with Activities and entertainments for the Holiday Season. Our Holiday Fair Fund raiser brought in over \$2000.00 this year (another record breaker). The newsletter has been reformatted and is getting great reviews. Darien High school Students from the C.O.R.E Program will participate in Craft making and then Holiday High Tea. We are anticipating a well attended Circle of Light Celebration on the 22nd. The Senior Center will be closed the 23rd and 24th as we are following the Town calendar for Holiday closings.

Ongoing Work in Progress: Researching Trends
Policy Manual
Monthly Newsletter
Developing Program Survey for Jan. membe

Building Projects: Winter Maintenance
Repair of Motion Detector lights in back lot
Refrigerator Repairs
Looking at window secure

December Program Highlights

1st Blood Pressure
1st Holiday Flower Arranging w/Garden Club
6th Morgan Stanley Financial Seminar
8th Holiday High Tea w DHS Students
9th Holiday "Make Over" Make-up Class
13th Shubert Chorale
14th Pre-K Holiday Concert from Norton Presbyterian
14th Line Dance Performance
16th Caregiver Educational Support Group
20th Musical Entertainment w/Bonnie Liedner
22nd Holiday Luncheon and Circle of Light Ceremony
23rd, 24th & 31st Center is closed as per Town Calendar

Meetings attended Dec 9th SWCAA Advisory Board
Dec 13th AIP Board meeting