

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 20, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Joseph Pankowski, Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Anne Marie Rayhill, Christine Castles, Ron Heinbaugh, Ray Slavin, Gerri Genovese, Mary McCarthy

STAFF: Beth Paris, Mather Center Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

May 18, 2016 Minutes

**** MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED THE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2016.**

**** MS. GEDDES SECONDED.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 4, under **ADJOURNMENT**: please change the following from:

“The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.”

to: “The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.”

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2016 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATHER CENTER REPORT.

Ms. Paris presented her report. (See attached)

Ms. Paris said that they had been asked to consider a technology upgrade that would help with keeping track of those who are coming to the Center. She also gave a overview of the service portion that the Center provides to the residents. September is National Senior Center Month.

The Mather Center will be closed for a week in August for a deep cleaning. The cleaning crew checks regularly with the staff to see if there are areas that need special attention.

Mr. Pankowski asked if there was enough storage. Ms. Paris said that they were able to store their files on site. July 21st will be their second anniversary in the new location.

HUMAN SERVICES.

There was no report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Pankowski asked for an update on the elevator in the Mather Center. Ms. Paris said that there have been recent problems with it and the service company responds very quickly. She said that when the elevator gets stuck, the elevator often can return to the Main level without an issue. Mr. Pankowski asked whether anyone has been stuck in the elevator. Ms. Paris said that they have not had anyone actually stuck in the elevator. However, if the occupants do not press the button to go back to the Main level, it becomes much more difficult. Discussion followed about the cost of replacing the elevator. Ms. Paris said that the elevator car should be replaced every 35 years and she thought this car was about that old. The mechanicals have been changed and the weights adjusted. However, the elevator is not being used for freight, as was its original purpose, but for people. She added that if a client is apprehensive, a building attendant will often accompany the client into the elevator and bring it back down to the Main level. Mr. Pankowski asked how many times the elevator has an issue per month. Ms. Paris said that when there is a problem, they call the repair service and it happens several times a month. The repair service tells them sometimes it has to reset itself.

Mr. Pankowski said that he was very concerned about this and the Commission needs to start working on getting the elevator replaced for the upcoming capital budget. He said that the Mather Center needs a properly functioning elevator to achieve its purpose.

**** MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED TO HAVE THE COMMISSION ON AGING TAKE A VERY ACTIVE ROLE IN HAVING THE ELEVATOR REPLACED AT THE MATHER CENTER.**

**** MR. SLAVIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Pankowski said that he would like to have a list of names of some of the seniors who have experienced difficulty with the elevator.

Ms. Geddes said that she had two phone calls about the tax abatement for the veterans. She said that nothing has changed. Ms. McCarthy said that she had gotten an email from the Tax Assessor about the State changes in the tax laws.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Castles said that she had been approached by someone with a suggestion about possibly having an intergenerational event where the seniors could sell their crafts or artwork. She said perhaps they could have tents in the parking lot. Mr. Pankowski asked

Ms. Paris to consider the possibility of doing this. Ms. Paris said that they had craft fairs in the past at Edgerton. Ms. Paris cautioned everyone about the issue of storage. She encouraged the person who was interested in doing to contact her directly. Mr. Pankowski said that anyone who was downsizing should also consider the swap shop. Discussion followed. Several suggestions were whether the seniors could work with the local churches or possibly have high school students help the seniors market the items on eBay.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. GENOVESE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Darien Senior Programs

Commission on Aging Report

July 20, 2016

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Director

July is celebration month as it marks the 2nd anniversary of the Darien Senior Program move to the Mather Center. There will be musical entertainments every week in addition to our regular scheduled activities. Members are enjoying coffee and, lunch and entertainments with visiting vacationing family and friends... Set Up a "Puzzle Corner" in the main Lobby area members are enjoying this new addition.

Met with 2 Silver Star Girl Scouts Candidates to assist them in development of a project that would be carried out annually at the Center. Looking to do intergenerational conversations about careers with older group and craft project with younger scouts.... Survey for reasons Non Residents attend the Center calculated and included in this report. Going over findings of Food Satisfaction Survey.

Highlighted & New Classes: 3 Entertainments to Celebrate 2nd Year at Mather's and Darien Senior Programs as a department; Puzzle Corner

Health & Wellness: *VN & Hospice of Fairfield County- Can You See Me Now**; *Stamford Hospital- Digestive Health*; *Walgreen's Pharmacy- Osteoporosis*

Educational & Informational: *Art Gottlieb LCSW-Eleanor Roosevelt*; *Reminiscence Programs-Geri Genovese*; *Caregiver Educational Support – Summer Vacation Considerations*;

Creative Pursuits; Oil, Water Color, Acrylic Painting; Stain Glass Class; Wednesdays Themed Crafts; Knitting Crocheting all ongoing

Entertainments: *Alumni Swing Band*; *Musical Styling's of Bob Lupi*; *Ct Entertainment presents Island Rhythm Party*; *Monday Movies*;

Services: Blood Pressure & Screening *VNA & Hospice 1st Monday Moring-Third Thursday Afternoon*; Ask a Social Worker *Wednesdays Darien Human Services*; Ask a Lawyer by Appointment; Supportive Counseling as needed/requested

Program Days: 20

Caregiver Educational Support Group: 8

Human Services Referral: 12

At Home in Darien: 7

Caregiver Options Counseling: 5

Family Inquiries: 7

EMS Calls: 0 - 1

Ongoing Work in Progress

Newsletter
Daily Statistics
Completion of the Non Resident Survey
Reviewing Food Survey
Program Planning Fall to Early Winter
New Budget Allocations

Meetings Attended: SWCAA Advisory Board Nominating Committee; Senior Center Director SWCAA quarterly meeting; CT Chapter Alzheimer's Event Meeting; COA Meeting

*****Non- Resident Survey Results**

STAMFORD: 262 **Norwalk:** 181 **Other:** 20 (New Canaan, Westport, Greenwich, Wilton)

Reasons for Attending Darien Senior Programs:

Programs:	248
Accessibility:	29
Past Resident:	32
Family in Darien	29
Friends in Darien	61
Church/Other Interest:	22
Warm Welcoming Atmosphere:	67
Worked in Darien:	14
No Comment:	64 (only 52 chose not to comment 12 updated by phone were not asked)