

From: SimsburyCT Postings May 26, 2010 9:32:46 AM
Subject: Aging and Disability Commission Minutes 05/18/2010
To: SimsburyCT_Aging
Cc:

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION

May 18, 2010
Meeting Minutes

Chairperson, Edward LaMontagne called the meeting to order in the Youth Room at Eno Hall, Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 at 7:04 p.m.

Present: Kathy Fallon, Mike Jennings, Marvin Koff, Carrie Kramer, Mona Martinik, Ed LaMontagne, Mark Orenstein, Charlotte Steptoe, Lynn Veith, Joe Loewy, (Simsbury Housing Authority), Kathleen Marschall, (Senior Center Coordinator)

Excused: Mona Herman, Grace Comeau, Tom Doran, Mary Ellen Long, Ann Walters-Thompson, John Hampton (BOS liaison)

Guests: Victor Bible

Public Audience: None

Mr. LaMontagne requested that alternates Mark Orenstein and Arlene Zappile assume regular voting members at this meeting.

Minutes, Previous Meeting: The meeting minutes from April 20, 2010 were reviewed and accepted with spelling and grammatical corrections.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Souper Tuesday - Grace Comeau

Ms. Comeau is excused. Ms. Martinik reported that they have a new way of registering attendees. There were only five no shows today. Ms. Marschall reported that the cost per person is over \$5.00 per person. A discussion ensued regarding alternatives to ordering soup from Fitzgeralds.

Citizen Service Award - Lynn Veith

Ms. Veith reported that the Senior Service Award was presented to Mr. Frank Joclyn at the BOS meeting on Monday, April 26th. A reception was held

after the event, which was again underwritten by McLean Affiliates.

Picnic In The Park - Charlotte Steptoe

Ms. Steptoe reported that Saturday, August 28th is the date for the event. The insurance paperwork has been filed and Ms. Steptoe will coordinate the mailing. She also will coordinate food donations. Ms. Martinik will speak with the Boy Scouts about volunteering at the event. Mr. Loewy also mentioned that he was approached at the Volunteer Expo by a representative from St. Ann's Church

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Youth group as potential volunteers. He will forward the information to Ms. Steptoe.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Disability Needs Assessment - Mike Jennings

Mr. Jennings and Mr. LaMontagne have received some surveys. The surveys at the library were restocked. The survey will stay on the town website until the end of May. Mr. LaMontagne will ask Rick Bazzano to extend the survey on the town website and will investigate whether or not the survey was placed on the BOE list serve. Ms. Kramer will attempt to facilitate a story with the press.

Public Relations - Carrie Kramer

Deputy Selectman John Hampton's has a new show on SCTV. Ms. Kramer has e-mailed Mr. Hampton with the names of Mr. LaMontagne, Ms. Martinik and Mr. Jennings as potential guests on his show.

Senior/Community Center Assessment - Mona Martinik

Ms. Martinik reported that chairs for the Senior Center have been ordered. There is a grant for kitchen renovations. Additional air conditioning is being worked on. The steam table electricity has been completed and can be used with the air conditioning on. Additional lighting will be added to the ceramics room.

Housing - Joe Loewy

Mr. LaMontagne reported that an apartment building, proposed by Atty. John Ritson, was approved. Eight units on the first floor will be handicapped accessible. Mr. Ritson is requesting the Commission assistance in "getting the word out" about the accessible apartments.

Mr. Loewy provided a summary of the process of HB 5110 requiring background checks for homemaker-companions. The bill did not pass due to an amendment. Mr. Loewy will update commission members as to next steps.

Tax Relief - Ed LaMontagne/John Hampton:

The Elderly Work Tax Credit will now be called Senior Citizens Assisting Education. Mr. LaMontagne and Mr. Hampton will be meeting with Dr. Ullman and Selectman Heavener to discuss the implementation of the program.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT - Kathleen Marschall, Senior Center Coordinator
Ms. Marschall reported that people have been asking for more evening programs. Several new classes are being offered. A Health and Wellness Fair is

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scheduled for June 8th at Eno. This Thursday, the Senior Center attendees are competing in Heathnet - a Senior Health Dance Competition.

OLD BUSINESS

Seniors Outreach:

Mr. LaMontagne reported that the second meeting of the Senior Outreach Program is scheduled for next month. Mr. Neil Sullivan, Principle of Simsbury High School has approached the HS student council regarding a potential representative on the Aging and Disability Commission. Mr. Hampton, Mr. Loewy, Ms. Marshall and Ms. Lecours-Beck, as well as representatives from the Board of Education, are on this committee.

Business Recognition Award

Mr. LaMontagne reported Mr. Jennings will be presenting the Business Recognition Award at the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce Annual meeting on Thursday May 20th at the Hopmeadow Country Club. The award will be presented to Auto-Bon Inc.

Legislative Update

Mr. LaMontagne shared information, provided by Mr. Koff, that both legislative houses approved of a bill establishing a tax credit for businesses that hire disabled workers receiving rehab services from DSS. The governor is expected to sign the bill.

Mr. LaMontagne updated the commission members on SB 409 to establish a pilot program using civilian volunteers to enforcement concerning. The

bill did not pass.

Ms. Kramer reported that legislation regarding education for coaches on concussion management passed. The legislation requires that a coach must remove a player if he sustains a concussion. The player cannot return until approved by specified health care workers

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Other Business

Ms. Martinik reported that the DMV has made changes to handicapped parking stickers, including expiration dates, and ID information.

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NEW BUSINESS

Financial Update

Mr. LaMontagne reported that he sent letters requesting donations to the Simsbury Newcomers Club and the United Methodist Church. The Civitan Club will be making a contribution to Picnic in the Park.

Mr. LaMontagne shared the Souper Tuesday and Aging and Disability budget account reconciliations. As of this date the Souper Tuesday fund has a zero balance.

NCRMHB Update

Mr. LaMontagne has been elected vice chairman of the Board. He shared a letter from Commissioner, Patricia Rehmer, regarding legislation which provides additional services for DMHAS. The North Central Region Mental Health Board Annual Dinner will be held in June at a restaurant in East Hartford.

Announcements

- A Freedom of Information Act program will be held at Simsbury High School on Tuesday June 15th at 7:00p.m.
- The US Department of Justice is now requiring, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, any new or renovated medical suites to provide accessibility to those with mobility challenges. This accessibility would include examining tables and testing equipment such as MRI, Cat Scan and Xray.

Correspondence

- Mr. LaMontagne shared a thank you letter from Mr. Joclyn for the Senior Service Award.
- Ann Walters-Tompson forwarded a letter to Mr. LaMontagne officially resigning from the Commission due to work and family commitments. This leaves 2 Republican openings, one full time and one alternate on the Commission.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Kramer reported a concern with the voting station at Henry James Middle School today. Today was the vote on the town budget. Ms. Kramer reported that there is no door paddle for access by mobility impaired individuals. They have to rely on human assistance to open the doors to the building however at times no one is available. It appears that this is a Board of Education issue versus a Voter Registrar issue. Mr. LaMontagne will follow up.

Ms. Veith invited all Commission members to attend the Relay For Life of Simsbury on June 12th and 13th at Simsbury High School.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Kramer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Fallon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next meeting: June 15, 2010 at 7: 00 p.m. in the Youth Room at Eno Memorial Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn R. Veith

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Clerk

www.simsurycenter.blogspot.com