Commission on Aging Meeting

November 7, 2022

9:30 am

Members in attendance: Bruce Lorentzen; Richard Wolf, Alison McElhone, Terry Castellano; also present are Weston Senior Center Director Wendy Petty, Weston Social Services Director Allison Lisbon and Friends of the Weston Senior Center Diane Heizinger

October meeting minutes unanimously approved.

Facilities update: Richard reported the remodeling of the first two Senior Center bathrooms is almost complete. Then they will begin work on the third bathroom.

After hours facility use policy update: Wendy and Mary will be working to update this. Currently the Senior Center is used on Tuesdays by the Hebrew School and there have been no issues. Wendy is not sure if the cleaning crew comes afterwards and will inquire about this. Parks and Recreation have asked about using the Senior Center gym for indoor tennis. Wendy will let them know it is ok as long as they do not come before 3:30PM and as long as the cleaning crew comes afterwards. There is also a pickleball group that uses the Senior Center after hours on Wednesdays.

Dial-a-Ride update. Roy reports they are still waiting on the new Prius. They hope to have it by Christmas. Roy is now using the computer to keep track of appointments. He has been busy and has had to turn down some rides. Bruce asked if it was time for a second driver? Wendy said there is a back-up driver, Lovely, who can drive when Roy has scheduled time off.

Allison gave the Social Services update. The Thanksgiving meal give away will be held on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. There will be another give away before the holidays. The Department is helping seniors apply for fuel assistance though there is less funding this year. Social Services and the Warm-up Fund will help. Unfortunately, there will also be an increase in electricity prices in a few months.The Department is encouraging families to do a home energy assessment. The cost of these assessments is covered for those who qualify for the energy assistance program. Richard asked if there are electricity assistance programs? Allison said there are several different programs offered by Eversource. There is also Operation Fuel.

The Department had 2 applicants for the part-time social worker position. This is a 19 hour per week position which will focus on youth and family services/programs.

Wendy gave the Senior Center Update. The Center has been very busy. Pickleball is very popular. Morning programs draw more participants. Afternoons are quieter. Recently had some difficulties with parking. Last week there was an incident. Parents of preschoolers parked in front of the Senior Center, in the fire lane, and left their vehicles. Someone playing pickleball fell and broke their arm. EMS was called but the ambulance was unable to access the Senior Center readily.

Diane reported that the Friends will be working on a newsletter. They are going to put some funds towards paying for lunches and programs at the Senior Center for those who qualify.

Bruce discussed a new agenda item – innovations. We want to continue to ask for Senior Center expansion and upgrades. Bruce said we should draft a letter. Richard suggested speaking to Ted Craft.

Wendy said at the next meeting we should be talking about budget requests. Things she has been considering are new laminate wood floors, updating art and exercise rooms. She is also considering partnering with Parks and Recreation.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:42AM

Respectfully submitted,

Alison McElhone

Construction starts this Wednesday 10/5, with most of demolition to be done when school is not in session.

Dial-a-ride: Roy has returned as the Senior Center driver.

Social Services: Allison reported they are busy assisting with fuel assistance applications. There will be less money from the state for heating this year. Allison will be meeting with the Weston Warm Up fund to discuss. There are also funds from Social Services that can help those in need. Holidays are approaching so the Department will soon be busy organizing meals and other donations.

We will discuss potential name change for The Senior Center in the next meeting, scheduled for 11/7/22.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:09AM

Respectfully submitted,

Alison McElhone