

FINAL
Minutes of the Commission on Aging Monthly Meeting
September 6, 2023

Attendees: Marie MacDonald, Patricia Miller, Joaner Weidman, Peter Wilcox

Guests: Congressman John Larson, State Senator Derek Slap, State Representative Bobby Gibson, Deputy Commissioner of Aging & Disability Services/Councilor Suzette Debeatham-Brown, Mayor Danielle Wong, Councilor Cindi Lloyd, Councilor Ken McClary, Marie Bendzans and Yvette Huyghue-Pannell (senior services liaison), Lisa Perrone (Congressman Larson's office), Kay Sherman

Absent: Bob Berman, Darrell Goodwin, Halesteen Graham Days, Barbara Reisner, Jeannette Rivers, Leon Rivers, Shirley Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm.

New Business

Yvette shared information about the workings of the Commission for the benefit of our guests. She also spoke about the important role that volunteers play with the work they do for the senior center.

Congressman Larson spoke about Medicare and Medicare reform.

Old Business

Members who did not confirm their contact information in June were asked to do so. (An updated copy of the list is attached.)

A quorum was not present so no items requiring a vote could be taken up:

1. Vacancy for the position of Commission on Aging secretary.
2. Moving October meeting to another congregate housing location; probably will not be able to schedule an offsite meeting until March 2024 at the earliest.

The "Generations on the Move" program, which is a collaboration among Senior Services; Social & Youth Services; and Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services got off to a good start. The next trip is a Grandparents Day celebration to the Essex Steam Train and Riverboat Excursion on September 9. There are still a few tickets available.

Senior Services was notified that Bloomfield's share of the state-allocated ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds is approximately \$85,000. The funds are restricted in that they must be used exclusively for the benefit of senior centers and cannot be reallocated elsewhere. We would like to use the money to construct a canopy at the entrance to the senior center. This was a part of the original building plan, but was subsequently eliminated as a cost savings measure. She asked for input from the Commission members as to how they might like to see the funds spent. Please plan to discuss at the October meeting.

The National Council on Aging also has a \$10,000 grant available for senior centers to promote flu and/or COVID-19 vaccinations. Bloomfield Senior Services has completed the application.

Students from the University of St. Joseph and University of Hartford schools of nursing will be at the senior center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, respectively, for the fall semester.

There will be a mini-bus appreciation recognition on Wednesday, September 13, prior to bingo.

Hartford HealthCare will present a noontime lunch and learn on Brain Health on Tuesday, September 26.

There will be a women's breakfast at 9:30 am on Thursday, September 21, and a men's breakfast at 9:30 am on Friday, September 29.

A 5-week program for caregivers will begin on October 5.

Bloomfield Senior Services will host an LGBTQ Moveable Senior Center Program starting at 1:30 pm on Thursday, October 19. Greater Hartford Legal Aid attorney Shirley Pripstein and Probate Judge Daniel Mara will be guest speakers. Librarians from Bloomfield and Avon will have information about programming they have scheduled. The event is open to members of the LGBTQ community, as well as anyone else who would like to attend.


Yvette shared the story of an individual who was concerned because they had begun receiving many middle-of-the night phone call "hang-ups." She said she was advised by the police department that if someone is bothered by the same anonymous, consistent caller, they should make out a police report. Then, the next time they receive a call from that person, they should dial *57 when the call ends and the number will go to the telephone company, who will then be able to identify the caller.

Acceptance of the June minutes will take place at the October meeting.

There being no further business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 2:05 pm.

The next meeting will take place at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,


Patricia A. Miller
Acting Secretary