

COMMISSION ON AGING
City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services
Community and Senior Services Division
830 Maple Avenue
Hartford, CT 06114

April 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes

- Call to order at Parkville Senior Center, 1:00 p.m.
Suspend rules to allow public meeting:
 - Public comment meeting between CoA and members of Parkville Senior Center including their board of Directors.
 - Discussion focused on facility need for the center. Since 1976 the center has seen no changes to its facility though the interests and needs have outgrown the space. Two large rooms, one office, and a food service space make up the facility. Parking is limited and inadequate to accommodate the number of members. Access is a long walk for the disabled and main entrance doors are not equipped with automatic opening doors. These two issues keep some members from attending regularly and potential members from ever coming. Almost all activities take place in one room including meals, arts and crafts, computer access, entertainment and club meetings. Except for the one office space there is no room for privacy when meeting with healthcare workers, social workers or additional City staff such as rent rebate etc. The second room is available but must be set up and taken down after each use. Storage is severely limited and the noise level is high. There is no adequate or secure space or equipment for physical exercise.
 - Discussion participants are proud of the neighborhood which supports the center (business and residential) and any improvements to the center should keep in mind member preference for remaining in the neighborhood.
 - Member desire for change choices: 1) expand and improve present site and especially access to parking by relocating other occupants of the building, 2) Rehab a neighborhood building to meet the needs addressed above, Perhaps an empty factory on Hamilton Street. 3) Construct a new building to meet the needs stated above. Options 1, 2 and 3 could possibly also house a medical center.
- The Commissioners on Aging offered that they would make a recommendation to the city based on the above concerns.
 - Regular Commission meeting convened at 1:40 pm
 - Moment of silence
 - Roll call: attending Commissioners – Nelson, Reese, Hartie, Cordner, and Rivera. Excused - Bicking. Absent Myrick, Sr and Wallace-Jenkins. Staff – R. Tate.
 - March minutes were not available. Secretary absent.
 - Discussion re meeting with Parkville Seniors (above). Commission will, in its annual report to the Mayor and City Council, recommend that a study be initiated to make capital improvements with respect to the needs of Parkville Senior Center.

Progress reports on 2011 – 12 Commission Goals.

GOAL #1 – To fill vacancies on the Commission - for three months Teresa (Terry) Stack and Ira Revels have been suggested as potential members. .

Commissioner Nelson will make one last attempt to reach them re progress on their interest/application.

GOAL #2 – To be better known in the community, Commissioners Hartie and Nelson continue to work on developing a brochure and Commissioner Nelson given the go ahead to order promotional materials for public gatherings. Report on upcoming city events made by Commissioner Nelson. Commissioner Bicking was absent and there was no report on her progress re Commission presence on HHS website or public access elevation.

Commissioner Cordner is now the Chair of the writing competition ad hoc committee. She and commissioner Nelson met to complete details for the competition including Announcement and Rules, Time Table, and Needs. These are attached to these minutes. Commission approved these with minor changes and requested Commissioner Nelson forward these to Elby Gonzales Schwapp for approval before our next meeting.

GOAL #3 - To build bridges with other Commissions and board which share mission focus with us. Commissioner Bicking has the lead on this goal and she was absent from this meeting. Commissioner Nelson reports doing research on a project for next year involving elder safety. He will present more details at the May meeting.

GOAL #4 – Hold an "open meeting" at each senior center this year. This goal has now been completed. The Commission will hold the May meeting at Tuscan Home and consider holding next year's meeting at other elder housing units.

- The Chair requested that Commissioners prepare suggestions for next year's goals and present at May meeting.
- Commissioner Committee reports: A. Housing, Commissioner Wallace-Jenkins was absent: no report B. Senior Services, Commissioner Nelson reported on Wellness Fair planned for the summer. C. Outreach, Commissioner Cordner reported above D. Safety, Commissioner Hartie reported that work is continuing as it relates to safety for the aged. E. Nominating, Commissioner Hartie report is above.
- Are You Okay? update: Commissioner Nelson will take the lead in scheduling launch date ASAP. May is Older Americans Month.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45.

Next regularly scheduled meeting of the COA is at the Tuscan Home (66 Montville St.) at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2012.