

City of Shelton
Shelton Senior Center
81 Wheeler Street
Shelton, CT 06484
(203) 924-9324

**Minutes
Shelton Senior Commission
April 8, 2008**

The April 8, 2008 meeting of the Shelton Senior Commission was called to order by William Smarz at 4:00 p.m., in the conference room of the Shelton Senior Center. The pledge was recited by all present.

Commissioners in Attendance:

William Smarz
Joseph Coleman
Shirley Keller
Barbara Arsenault
James Martin
Roger Spinelli

Also Attending:

Kathy Ramia
Johanna Czeszel

Absent:

PUBLIC PORTION:

Johanna Czeszel asked the Commissions approval for expenditure to reupholster the furniture in the foyer. A settee and 6 chairs will be reupholstered. The cost will be about \$2900. combined with a couple of other items, such as pictures, bringing the total to \$3100. The Commission gave their approval. Some discussion was held as to whether Johanna needs to come before the Commission for purchases over \$1000. The Commission let Johanna know that she only needs to come before the Commission for purchases involving money to be spent by the Commission on shared expenses. Joe Coleman stated it would be nice for Johanna to unofficially notify the chairman and the director of any purchases the membership plans on purchasing.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOE COLEMAN TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE FOR REUPHOLSTERING THE FURNITURE IN THE FOYER. BARBARA ARSENAULT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

Sue Dicariano entered at 4:10 p.m.

Jill Bruno entered at 4:20 p.m.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROGER SPINELLI TO ACCEPT THE MARCH MINUTES WITH CORRECTION. JOE COLEMAN SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

Correction on last page of minutes. The center provides transportation through Valley Transit 3 times a week. The Center also provides a bus for shopping on Wednesday.

TREASURER'S REPORT COMMISSION

The treasurer's report for the month end March 31, 2008 was read by Kathy Ramia, reporting a balance forward of \$8499.10, receipts \$240.73, disbursements \$0 leaving an

ending balance of \$8499.10. Five \$10,000. CD's totaling \$52,446.00. The next CD matures on 4/25/08.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM MARTIN TO ACCEPT THE MARCH TREASURER'S REPORT AS READ. BARBARA ARSENAULT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOE COLEMAN TO ACCEPT THE MARCH TREASURER'S REPORT OF THE SENIOR MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL. SHIRLEY KELLER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Kathy Ramia reported that she has been keeping up the trips and the programs at the Center. She has scheduled some speakers fill in for some things that haven't been planned. Kathy feels she needs to be at the Center during the day to take care of the daily needs and concerns of the Center. She has sent Sue and Norma on the last two trips. In June there will be a three day trip. Kathy is going to see if the travel agent will provide an escort. Kathy stated the seniors enjoyed their first themed dinner. It went very well. Anne and Frank worked together in the kitchen for the Feast of St. Joseph. They planned an anti-pasta, pasta dinner, garlic bread, and a cannoli for desert. They charged \$3.00 and they actually doubled their receipts for the day. Kathy is looking into more theme dinners. May's theme is jelly bean day. Kathy expressed concern with the AARP tax volunteer services. She stated that many seniors don't realize they need to fill out a form to receive the tax stimulus which has been extended to October. Jerry Mattingly was volunteering at the center and only had 6 people. AARP has been having many appointments at the center with younger people and people with extensive returns. Some seniors can not get appointments. AARP has stated that they can not discriminate against age or return. The Commission feels that their policy be reviewed and maybe they shouldn't be using the Senior Center. Kathy stated it is using the space for longer periods of time and disrupting the senior activities.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JILL BRUNO TO ACCEPT THE MARCH DIRECTOR'S REPORT AS PRESENTED. ROGER SPINELLI SECONDED. MOTION PASSED

OUTSTANDING BILLS:

None. Mr. Smarz stated the Mayor approved the bills for the floors.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Arts & Crafts – Roger Spinelli has 2 classes of flower arranging scheduled in April. Mr. Smarz asked Roger how he is running the classes financially. Jill stated that the instructors are usually paid through the city. Mr. Smarz would like to have Roger hired as an arts & crafts teacher. Ellen Shaw first allowed Roger to come in and teach at the center. Roger is basically running a program and charging fees for seniors who are members. The fees cover the materials. Mr. Smarz feels that a policy needs to be written. Joe hasn't seen anything in the by-laws regarding this. He stated the by-laws are written for members. Jill questioned the money aspect. The checks are collected in Rogers name. Jill stated if there were any questions or concerns nobody would be covered, the Center, the Commission or Roger. Mr. Smarz asked the Commission to look over the by-laws bring this matter up at another meeting.

Mr. Smarz asked Roger for an expenditure report on the Festival of Trees and the Christmas Fair.

Information Line – Jim Martin reported on the information line. People will be able to call the information line which will be recorded daily. The information line will let people

know if there are any cancellations, the lunch menu, if the outreach car is available, information on any special activities or any other issue not posted or put in the bulletin. Kathy stated the staff is very much interested in the info line. Jim stated the cost is 21.95 with a \$15.00 installation fee.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOE COLEMAN TO PROCEED IN OBTAINING THE INFORMATION PHONE LINE. SUE CARIANO SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

OLD BUSINESS:

Attendance Policy - Mr. Smarz stated that everyone has a policy in the by-laws for the regarding Attendance. Anyone who is in danger of violating the policy will receive a letter from the Commission. In an emergency you can come before the Commission to explain your reason for missing meetings. Jill Bruno stated that last year some meetings were changed which made it hard to plan. Mr. Smarz stated that everyone was informed long enough in advance. She asked that the Commission go with the schedule.

NEW BUSINESS:

TRIAD – Joe Coleman presented to the Commission a report on the Shelton Senior Center Triad. The Triad is an organization formed to promote the Health, Safety and Quality of life of Senior Citizens. It is usually composed of the Shelton Police Department, the private sector and the Director of and volunteers from the Senior Center. Joe explained the importance of the TRIAD and the wonderful programs they have instituted and carried out such as the Yellow Dot, flashing lights, cell phone and their newest program a smoke detector program. They are working with TEAM on this program to issue 25 smoke detectors with 10 year batteries to truly needy people who need them. The fire department will keep a data base on who receives the alarms and when they need to be replaced. Joe stated he was contacted by an Alabama police department who wanted information on the Yellow Dot Program so they can institute it in their area. Joe reported that the TRIAD will have a statewide meeting in Mystic. Law enforcement, first responders, senior center directors and volunteers will attend and discuss such issues as scams on seniors, home invasions and other interests for our seniors. Locally Detective Ahern will look into Orange's program, regarding home reviews. If a senior wanted his house could be reviewed and determined whether it was protected from home invasion. The TRIADS May 6th meeting will cover the most committed crimes against seniors. Mr. Smarz thanked Joe for his presentation. Joe will report back to the Commission on the projects and programs of the TRIAD.

Jill Bruno requested that the Commission go into Executive Session.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JILL BRUNO FOR THE COMMISSION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:10 P.M. BARBARA ARSENAULT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

The Commission came out of executive session at 5:35 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JILL BRUNO TO ADJORN AT 5:37P.M. ROGER SPINELLI SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

Attested to: _____ Date: _____