



Town of Windsor
Commission on Aging and Persons with Disabilities
Regular Meeting
September 10, 2019

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Amy Silliman-Avedisian, Marsha Brown, Estelle LaBarre, and Linda Rickard

Commissioners Excused: Veronica DeBetham-Taylor, Kathy Roby

Commissioners Unexcused: None

Liaison Present: Rebecca Joyce

Also Present: Cheryl Rosenbaum, Caring Connection Coordinator

Called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Amy Silliman-Avedisian

Communication from Commissioners:

Chairperson Silliman-Avedisian introduced our new commissioner, Kathy Roby. Ms. Roby was unable to attend the September meeting due to a prior engagement but will be at the October meeting.

Commissioner Brown mentioned the article that she read in the local newspaper about the state proposal to cut funding to nine nursing homes with high vacancy rates in Connecticut. She mentioned that the Governor proposed to eliminate 500 beds and one of the nine organizations is Kimberly Hall in Windsor. A discussion ensued. The Commission will investigate this topic and it will be added to the October agenda for further discussion.

Communication from Liaison: Liaison Joyce provided an update on Senior Services as well as distributed the newsletter for Senior Services and Social Services. She mentioned that September is National Senior Center Month, the upcoming "Aging is Only a Number" presentation, the Balance, Posture & Defying Gravity Program for Falls Prevention month, Mindfulness/Meditations classes, the Outdoor Adventure Club which includes kayaking, Deep Sea Fishing and zip lining trips, the upcoming Senior Health Fair & Flu Shot Clinic scheduled for October 3, 2019, and that the Senior Center is now offering the benefit of Renew Active at the Senior Fitness Center. She also introduced the new Social Services Coordinator, Jasmine Hall and the new Energy Caseworker, Eliana Medina-James.

Communication from the Public: None

Approval of the Minutes from the May 7, 2019 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2019 meeting, was made by Commissioner Rickard and seconded by Chairperson LaBarre. The motion passed 4/0/0.

Old Business:

Discussion of open positions and review of relevant ordinances

Chairperson Silliman-Avedisian noted that the COAPD currently has one open position. A discussion ensued about party representation. It was noted that the Town of Windsor appoints the members.

Chairperson Silliman-Avedisian mentioned that the Commission should review the relevant ordinances and would like to do so at the next meeting.

Review of Annual Report Status

Chairperson Silliman-Avedisian mentioned that she presented the COAPD Annual Review at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. She recapped her report and brought up the one question that she was asked by Councilor O'Reilly – "Do you think the Commission should report to Town Council more frequently?" Chairperson Silliman-Avedisian explained that she felt reporting annually is sufficient, however, the Commission would be happy to entertain the idea and, if requested, would be happy to present more frequently.

Continued discussion of future programming: open forum on disability rights, medication management and substance/alcohol abuse in the elderly and disabled population

This will continue to be discussed in future meetings, however, a discussion ensued and the following topics were discussed: medication management, substance abuse within the senior population and those with disabilities and the possibility of holding an open forum or mini health fair to discuss human rights specifically persons with disabilities. A discussion followed and possible dates, times and location were discussed. It was decided that the focus will be on substance abuse within the elderly and disabled populations. More details will be discussed during the October meeting.

Vote on COAPD's First Program

The Commission would like to support a program related to substance abuse within the elderly and disabled population. A motion was made by Chairperson Silliman-Avedisian and seconded by Commissioner Rickard. The motion passed 4/0/0.

New Business:

Review and Update COAPD Flyer

This topic was discussed briefly and it was decided that the flyer is outdated and that the Commission would like to create a new flyer by adding new photos of more recent projects and programs. This will be added to the October agenda for further discussion.

Further Comments and Questions from the Public

Ms. Rosenbaum spoke about the topic of funding for Skilled Nursing Facilities in Connecticut. She noted that the State of Connecticut has had many changes with regard to Medicaid and that there are so many more options to keep people within their homes. She mentioned that this is having a major effect on the nursing facilities in Connecticut.

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm was made by Commissioner LaBarre and seconded by Commissioner Rickard. The motion passed 4/0/0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Joyce