

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
SENIOR CENTER

Present: Chairperson Eric Rosenberg, Vice Chairperson Cindy Craig, Commission Members Kim Crabbe, Mariann Mankowski, Bonnie Berkovich, Shelley Grendzinski and Beth Angel
Alternate member: Kathy Megan

Also in attendance: Town Council member Jack Solomon, Senior Services Director JoAnn Ewing and Senior Center Coordinator Assistant, Kecia Hemphill

Call to Order and Seating of Alternates

Dr. Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made to adopt the agenda as written by Ms. Crabbe, 2nd by Ms. Craig (Voted 7-0).

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the February 8, 2024, minutes was made by Ms. Craig, 2nd by Ms. Berkovich (Voted 7-0).

Public Comment

No Comment

Announcements from the Chair

Dr. Rosenberg announced UR Community Cares will be hosting an open house on April 1, 2024, from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Senior Services Report

Ms. Ewing introduced Ms. Hemphill, who will be attending the Commission on Aging meetings until Ms. Ewing's replacement is found. Ms. Ewing encouraged members to attend the upcoming budget meeting at Town Hall at 4 pm Tuesday 3/19 in support of the Senior Center. She also informed the members that Town Manager Cox will be meeting with Estuary's executive director to discuss the ongoing staffing issues and how to resolve the problem.

Old Business

EHCC Update: Dr. Rosenberg reported there are now twenty-four (24) volunteers and twenty-four (24) members; nineteen (19) deeds were completed in February. He asked members for assistance in planning the participant and donor appreciation luncheon to be hosted by Lakeside Restaurant. Ms. Craig updated members on the status of the collaborative fundraising effort for East Hampton Community Cares with Po's Rice & Spice.

Reports from Housing, Transportation and Health & Wellness Groups

Housing: Ms. Craig informed members that the home improvements fair has been postponed until early Fall.

Transportation: Ms. Ewing reported River Valley Transit will be implementing the Xtra Mile Program in East Hampton, on May 28, 2024. The two-year pilot will be another alternative for people who need help with transportation. Ms. Berkovich also mentioned River Valley Transit is working on a plan for fixed route bus stops which will alleviate the burden on the public having to flag buses down to catch a ride.

Health and Wellness: Ms. Mankowski briefed members on the group's efforts in planning the adult enrichment program. Several Town departments have offered to support the group's efforts. The Recreation Department will assist with participant registration, collecting fees and marketing. School Superintendent Smith has agreed to allow the group to use the school facilities after school hours and weekends. Group members have been exploring joint programming with Epoch Arts. They are also considering offering scholarships for those who cannot afford the tuition. A pilot program is targeted for this Fall, with a full launch in January. Ms. Mankowski will meet with Town Manager Cox to ask for permission to prepare a grant application for the town to submit for state loneliness program funds. Ms. Crabbe briefed members on a summit organized by Senator Chris Murphy on social isolation and loneliness that she and Ms. Craig attended.

Housing Authority: Ms. Grendzinski reported that all apartments will be rented by the end of the month and improvement renovations are in process.

Budget: No Comment

New Business

Due to scheduling issues, Ms. Angel made a motion to change the regular meeting on May 9, 2024, to a special meeting on May 16, 2024. Ms. Craig second the motion (Voted 7-0).

Public Comment

Mark Cunningham of 40 Daly Road expressed his interest in becoming a COA alternate member.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Maynard
Recording Clerk