

**COMMISSION ON AGING
PROGRAMMING SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 7, 2018**

Attendance: George Guidera, Anna Wiedemann, Anne Rothstein, Barbara Bloom, Marilyn Place and Selectman Rosenthal

Commission members in attendance: Claire Theune, Larry Passero, Curt Symes and John Boccuzzi

Public: 5 members

Subcommittee Chair George Guidera called the meeting called to order at 4:03pm

Jan Brown, Pickle Ball Ambassador was present to talk about offering an Intro to Pickle Ball for October at the Edmond Town Hall. Ms. Place and Ms. Brown will meet to discuss day and time for class to begin. Park and Rec will pay for half the cost. It will cost approximately \$140 for the intro classes at ETH. Pickle Ball is easy on everyone – even if you’ve had multiple joint replacements. It’s a fun cardio exercise. If this is successful, we will look into purchasing a net, the appropriate tape to mark the court and a rule book. Players will be encouraged to purchase their own paddles. It’s approximately \$200 for a good net. Ms. Wiedemann will reach out to USAPA to find out if there are rebate programs towards purchasing equipment.

Discussion around the visit to Shelton: Everyone liked to open feel to the area. They have a large square in the middle with rooms surrounding the square. Members liked the windows so that others could look out and in while exercising. There are two areas for food. One for coffee breakfast type items and another for lunch. Their center is open and inviting. The Director is engaged in all the activities and is proud of the fact that it is a very robust center, with younger seniors and many male and females who attend. 33% of their population is male.

We need to reach out to find more volunteers who can help on a daily basis. Grants can be researched for new programs as well for the new Center, such as computers. Current new classes at the SC are: Zumba Gold, History/Cultural Series, Travel Program Series, History/Educational Scrapbooking. Men’s Karate class and Pickle Ball will begin in October. Pickle Ball will be offered at the Edmond Town Hall Gymnasium. NEW classes for 2019 are: Photography, Chinese Brush Painting, Language Lessons, Clay/Modeling, Ceramics, C&W Line Dancing, Genealogy, Paint Night, Cooking for Two/Crock Pot cooking, Computer Lessons. Friday Entertainment was so popular over the summer that it will be continued.

Ms. Rothstein has a list of programs with descriptions. She will email the list so that we can rank what we think might attract more seniors to join our center. A suggestion was made that once some new programs are completed, have some sort of exit survey so we can gauge the popularity of the new program.

Support groups were mentioned again. The top two that need to be in place soon are a support group for folks caring for Alzheimer folks and Grandparents raising grandchildren. Ms. Wiedemann will reach out to the Alzheimer Association. We have some in town residents who are also certified to help with support groups.

Ms. Place will bring different reports to the next meeting. This is a new system, so there will be some learning curves associated with printing out the type of reports needed to be able to get a better picture of what programs can go where, what's popular, what could be moved and possibly renamed. Ms. Place was asked to also bring a chart showing days of the week, populating it with what programs happen which days, what time and what rooms. We need to see two weeks' worth of current programs to begin to accurately gauge what is working and what may need to be tweaked. We need to be mindful of programs that will be good for everyone, for both the more active and less active seniors. We will look for a report that will more accurately depict how many members are paid and how many fobs have been given out.

Ms. Place talked about fundraisers and how those funds would be collected. Mr. Tait, our Finance Manager explained that any funds received from fundraising would go into the 172 account.

Three areas to keep in mind when looking at programing are: Exercise, Education and Arts & Crafts. Ms. Place said that we are fortunate with a lot of in house talent. A member recently approached her about bringing back crafts that used to be popular many years ago. For instance, macramé is something that will be considered.

Re-branding. Mr. Boccuzzi offered to create a flier. Ms. Wiedemann already spoke to the Newtown Bee. She will reach out to them again for an article so that we can run a contest asap for suggestions on possibly renaming of the Senior Center. Whatever new name is chosen, the winner/recipient will receive free lifetime membership.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm

Respectfully submitted, Anna Wiedemann