

**CITY OF BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
Thursday, March 21, 2024 - Regular Meeting Minutes
Bristol Senior Center – 240 Stafford Avenue
Bristol, CT 06010 – Phone: 860-584-7895 Room #109**

Present: Chairman Larry Zbikowski, Commissioners: Cathy Duck, Ellen McCusker, George Irving, Chris Leigh, Dolores Ricker, Sheila Herens, Executive Director Jason Krueger, Assistant Director Jaimie Clout, Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano, and Council Liaison Susan Tyler.

Absent: None

Meeting Called to order: Chairman Larry Zbikowski called the meeting to order at 11:01am

Approval of Minutes: *Commissioner McCusker moved to accept the minutes from the February 15, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Leigh, All in Favor.*

Public Participation: None

Council Update: Mayor Caggiano gave the update that the funding has been approved for the BOE to vacate their occupancy of the building. The expected date of completion is April 15th 2024.

Correspondence: There were three letters of correspondence. The first, was a “thank you” card from the Bristol CERT team for helping provide volunteers for the All-Heart Food Drive. The second, a letter dated March 13, 2024 to announce the re-appointment of George Irving as a member of the Commission on Aging. The third, a letter dated March, 13, 2024 to confirm the re-appointment of Christine Leigh as a member of the commission on Aging.

Unfinished Business: There was a motion to keep or change the meeting time of the Commission on Aging. The motion was made by *Commissioner Duck* to keep the existing time of 11:00am as the meeting time. The motion was seconded by *Commissioner Leigh*.

There was discussion of “pay-to-play” for Pickleball versus our current “Drop-in “model of game play. It was said by Executive Director Krueger that if any change were to take place, it would not take place until the next year. Fees will continue to be considered for all non-resident players. Mayor Caggiano noted that the Bristol Armory had open, daytime availability for Pickleball and urged our department to reach out and inquire about further options for Pickleball game play for seniors.

There was discussion of the progress of the Bocce Courts. It was noted by Executive Director Krueger that the first payment to the contractor had been made and that we are waiting to schedule work to begin. It is our hope that the courts will be completed in time for our in-house league in June.

There was discussion of State ARPA funds in regards to the fact that we are delegated funds and that we will need to obtain final approval at the special city council meeting on April 4th. There are no anticipated delays with funds.

New Business: Executive Director Krueger presented to the Commission an update on building use. The key players met to discuss logistics, timeline, project scope, and budget parameters. As soon as CIP funds become available as of July 1st, the Health Department will work with the engineering

department to finalize a plan for layout and usage. It is anticipated that by spring of 2025, the BBHD will be moved into the former BOE space. At that time, the Bristol Senior Center will begin the process of moving into the former BBHD space. There was discussion of creating a formal Building Use Committee with the purpose of scoping out rudimentary ideas and feedback from members. It was recommended that at least 2 commissions be designated to steer the committee. There was a motion made to create the Building Use Committee made by ***Commissioner Herens***. The motion was seconded by ***Commissioner Duck***.

Executive Director Krueger gave an update in regards to a grant that is in the process from AARP to support the efforts of our Memory Café program run by Lynn Litwiczky. The program is looking to expand and fund some weekly programming options. Secondly, there was an update provided on a grant from Thomaston Savings Bank to support our need for toiletry items for those in need. Both grants were anticipated to be approved and monies dispersed will be forthcoming.

Any other business: None

The next meeting of the Commission on Aging will be on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 11:00am in Room #109.

Adjournment: ***Commissioner Ricker moved “to adjourn” at 11:48 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Leigh. All in favor.***

Respectfully submitted, Jaimie Clout, Secretary to the Commission.