

**CITY OF BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING
Thursday, April 18, 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, Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano, and Council Liaison Susan Tyler.

Absent: Assistant Director Jaimie Clout

Meeting Called to order: Chairman Larry Zbikowski called the meeting to order at 11:02am

Approval of Minutes: *Commissioner Duck moved to accept the minutes from the February 15, 2024 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ricker, 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 for BOE to vacate by is April 15th 2024.

Correspondence: There were two letters of correspondence. The first, dated April 10, 2024 was a letter from the Comptroller to make us aware that in regards to the the allocation of ARPA funding, the mayor or acting Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the allocation of such funding. The second was a letter also dated April 10, 2024 to state that it was voted on to approve the submission of a grant application to the “Demand Responsive program” to authorize the mayor or acting Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the allocation of such a grant/funding.

Unfinished, “Old” Business: There was letter read by *Commissioner Duck* to explain a letter written by Jason Krueger, Executive Director in regards to where the Building Use Committee has left off in regards to the future takeover of the former BBHD space. Executive Director Krueger commented on the fact that the senior center, along with the committee are working on putting together a survey to its members to ensure the best use of available space. A comment made by Council Liaison Sue Tyler to thank the mayor for getting that list out very quickly for city hall volunteers for the welcome desk. A further comment was made that there is an old picture of city hall on the website and recommended updating the picture.

New Business: Executive Director Krueger spoke on the current state of the congregate meal program with the given circumstances that CW Resources had laid out for us. He further explained the limitations of the program and how our membership have handled the situation. Executive Director Krueger stated that there is \$5,295 in a new fund that was created to subsidize our lunch program. We will continue to add to the fund so that no senior will go hungry at the Bristol Senior Center. Furthermore, he commented that there may be a future need to explore the possibility of bringing the congregate meal program in-house. As of May 1st, the daily meals on wheels program will be made whole and brought back to previous services. Mayor Caggiano commented that the food program was not within city parameters and recommended that we contact our BOE for aid. A comment was made by Council Liaison Sue Tyler to recommend that professionals coming in to speak at the senior center should make a donation in exchange for allowing them to promote their services. It was remarked by Executive Director Krueger that this may be a good idea.

Any other business: Executive Director Krueger reported the statistics for the past month is as follows: In March we had 6,229 participants, total membership was 5,552, with 10 members' deceased and 76 new members. Our fundraiser total was at \$20,205.00. Executive Director Krueger reported on the status of the installation of our new Bocce courts and that construction is due to begin on Friday, April 19th. 50% of ARPA funds were used as well as a 50% match made by the Bristol Senior Center. It was also mentioned that \$146,000 in ARPA funds for our camera and intercom system had been approved and that once the Board of Finance approves, we will be able to move forward with that project. Executive Director Krueger remarked that we have applied for the Farmer's Market reduced coupons once again this year and that he had met with HRA in regards to our current Dial-A-Ride program to discuss the city-matched grant funds to provide \$55,000 to the city to subsidize the cost of the program. The city provides over \$100,000 to this program as well. Dial-A-Ride will be expanding on shopping trip opportunities.

Executive Director Jason Krueger stated that our upcoming events include an Earth Day clean-up event, an Earth Day rock painting event, Senior Olympics in May, our summer programs will begin in 2-weeks, we have a Mother's Day Dinner Dance, the annual Volunteer Dinner and the Bristol Brass and Wind Concert to perform in May.

The next meeting of the Commission on Aging will be on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 11:00am in Room #109.

Adjournment: *Commissioner Herens moved "to adjourn" at 11:48 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Duck. All in favor.*

Respectfully submitted, Jaimie Clout, Secretary to the Commission.