

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
& COMMISSION FOR SENIOR SERVICES**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, Tuesday, October 9th, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: HSC - Bob Galan, Claudia Coplen, Ken Bernhard, Peter Powell, & Beth Selby Bass

CSS - Les Wolf, Leslie Wolf, Peter Kolbrener, Janet Filling, Jo Fuchs-Luscombe, Bob Fox

Excused: Yvonne Senturia, Lee Bollert,

Staff: Elaine Daignault, Susan Stefenson, Kristen Witt

Approval of Minutes from September 11th, 2018

Guest speaker – Brian Cosker from Lifeway Mobility

Mr. Cosker discussed the importance of planning for the long-term safety of one's home in preparation for seniors and people with disabilities to age in place. He covered a variety of resources and considerations when assessing your home and encouraged residents to be aware of possible needs in advance. (See Aging in Place remodeling Checklist attached)

DHS Staff Report & Updates, Elaine Daignault

- Center for Senior Activities Enhancement Update – the project is on time and on budget. WCSA continues to raise funds for specific needs that are not covered under the renovations. Examples include: gym equipment and kitchen supplies
- DHS continues to pursue opportunities to serve at risk residents during times of emergency. The Fire Department is moving to NIXLE that will provide a better system for outreach via the automated system.

Commission breakout discussions

• **Human Services Commission**

- Discussion of commissioners' role as advocates for residents and advisors to DHS.
- Public meetings have historically had a guest speaker on a topic of interest, followed by staff reports and updates on current projects throughout town. These meetings are helpful in painting a picture for commissioners but do not necessarily translate to actionable items. Commissioners agree that they would like tangible projects and activities including bringing back the food collection for our community food closet at each meeting.
- In the future, could commissioners choose a topic of interest to follow then report to the larger group on current projects in town from the lens of social services? (Ex. Affordable Housing Committee, Parks and Recreation, etc.)
- Priorities and future focus on advocacy, education and monitoring town/federal trends as it pertains to DHS programs and services

- A follow up meeting will be planned with Jeff Weiser of Homes with Hope to discuss Affordable Housing processes with the intent of clarifying availability and potential of increased access.
- **Commission for Senior Services**
 - Continued to discuss today's guest speaker and its importance to the senior community in planning for the future.

Adjournment

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 13 at 9AM