

Commission for Senior Services
Minutes of May 20, 2016

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Bob Fatherley

Present: Bob Fatherley, Chair; Jo Fuchs-Luscombe, Les Wolf, Janet Filling, and Peter Kolbrener

Absent: Leslie Wolf and Judy Guthman

Staff: Susan Pfister, Barbara Butler, and Sarah Heath

Guests: Bill Harmer, Westport Library Executive Director

Minutes: The Minutes of April 15th were approved.

CSS Discussion:

Chairman Bob Fatherley thank Barbara Butler for many years of service to our community as Director of the Dept. of Human Services. Flowers were presented to Barbara and Sarah Heath from the Commission. Sarah's qualities and qualifications were expressed by Bob and she was congratulated on her promotion and welcomed as Barbara's successor.

Bill Harmer, Westport Library Executive Director was introduced and shared his background and vision for the Westport Library. He stressed the importance of community service and how a good library can serve one and all. Ideas for the future of the Westport Library were shared. The importance of books and reading was stressed. Summer reading programs for students is not just for the young. Seniors welcomed and encouraged to participate. The Library is there to celebrate people's passions. Libraries are not just for books anymore. They are libraries that connect people to numerous new things. Programs for seniors include tax assistance, learning technology in a non-threatening environment geared toward seniors, conversation groups in any language are available. Films, yoga, learning in retirement is a new program, and short courses to study a subject - Centennial Anniversary of WWI. Library will take this on as a project. Senior lockers being considered where library is open to seniors for senior activities. A film of WWI vets is going to be done. Status report on the Expansion and transformation of library calls for creating a 21st century library suitable for the community. Mission statement approved unanimously (see attached).

Sarah Heath gave an update on Renter's Relief program and Energy Assistance.

Sue Pfister gave an update on the sign to the entrance of the senior center. It is being evaluated.

Sue discussed preliminary plans being developed by Les and Janet for a presentation at Whitney Glen to make residents aware.

Symposium at the Y's Men's gathering. Program of full comprehensive programs and services available. August 12th for one hour at Senior Center. Walkthrough format to be developed.

Sue and Sarah thanked for their valuable assistance in setting up Annual Meeting. 10-11:30, June 17th.

Jim Marpe will present Annual Service to Older Adults award to Martha Aasen. Agenda for Annual Meeting was approved.

Next meeting is the Annual Meeting at the Center next month.

At the July 15th meeting, there will be a review of where we've been and where we are now.

Adjourned at 11:30AM
Senior Services Member

Respectfully submitted, Jo Fuchs-Luscombe, Commission for