

Commission on Aging
Minutes of the Meeting
September 19, 2011

Present: Chair Christine Robertson; Kathy Brennan; Marion Feer; Alice Kenny Lucas;
Mary Morrisroe; Mary Ann O'Grady; Sheila Silverman

Observers: Carole Konner; Jeanne Wolnick

Guest: State Representative John Frey

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chair Christine Robertson.

- Sheila Silverman is handling Bingo for residents of Ballard Green every Friday.
- Alice advised that Congregate Housing used to have Bingo on Wednesday, however, currently there is no volunteer to run. Discussion followed—Kathy Brennan, Marion Freer, and Mary Ann O'Grady may be able to work out a schedule to handle.
- Community Center Senior Luncheons start again on Monday, September 26th.

Senior Service Directory

Chair Robertson advised that this Commission has \$9750 in its account, thanks to another \$5,000 grant from the Leir Foundation. There are sufficient funds to update and reissue the Directory. Mary Ann O'Grady distributed drafts of a letter and form (attached) to be sent to Craftsmen and Tradespersons. She asked members to review. After discussion, it was agreed that "and Residents" would be omitted from the title on the front cover. The cover will read "Ridgefield Directory of Services for Seniors." Discussion followed regarding the form, when and where to mention the "Gold Card". Further discussion was tabled to our next meeting with the arrival of our speaker.

State Representative John Frey

John Frey distributed a Summary of 2011 Acts Affecting Seniors to Commission members. Discussion of these and other pertinent subjects followed eg.

- *Medicare Savings Program has replaced ConnPace
- *The State Fuel Assistance program has been reduced and will apply only to users of oil. There will be no funds for gas and electric users.
- *The end of "shut off" protection will now be May, not April.
- *There will be more regulation on long term care insurance.
- *Carole Konner advised that 25 Nursing Homes will be closed in the near future and will present problems for patients.
- *The traffic light at Regency/LaurelRidge/Ridgefield Crossings has been approved. The cost, \$150,000, will be shared by these three entities. John is working on it.

Representative Frey asked members to advise him of ideas and or needs for the next legislative session. Chair Robertson thanked Representative Frey for his help and talk.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Morrisroe, Secretary

The next meeting of this Commission will be held Monday, October 17, 2011, 2:30 p.m. in the Small Lower Level Conference Room, Town Hall.

Anyone requiring accommodation because of disability is asked to contact Chair Christine Robertson on 203-438-6165.