

COMMISSION ON AGING

October 3, 2022

Present: Gayle Kataja, Denise Weeks, Susan Pearlman, Jennifer DiSette, Beth Hillson

Liaisons Present: Lisa Zerio, Director of Parks and Recreation
Patti White, Senior Services Program Supervisor

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Public Speaks: Bruce Bowman spoke about his interest and appreciation for the Commission's efforts to support protecting the Oak tree on Tryon Street. Lisa informed the group that efforts are underway to install a bench and possible symmetrical boulders to protect the space. Bruce suggested that a consideration of wild flowers growing in the area would be a good addition.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 2022 were accepted as written.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Patti reported she received an email from Francine Jowdy to the Commission thanking them for their support of her group's efforts to improve access to the Citizen newspaper for those with vision challenges.

Lisa reported that she had been in contact with the publisher of the Citizen and that he indicated a willingness to discuss the matter further. Lisa will follow up with him.

LIAISON REPORTS: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Gayle thanked the staff for their reports and there were no questions raised.

OLD BUSINESS:

Age-Friendly Community Initiative

October 20th Community Conversation:

The group further discussed plans for the event which will take place at 6pm at the Riverfront Community Center. Patti will work with Jennifer DiSette on a PowerPoint presentation which

will include a brief overview of the initiative and progress to date followed by break-out group discussions of the three priority Domains of Livability and future planning related to the eight Domains.

Senior Center Reaccreditation

Patti asked the members for recommendations of residents to serve on the Self-Assessment Reaccreditation committee. Outreach will be done to former participants, members of the Age-Friendly community Core Leadership Team and community volunteers.

The group agreed to hold the first meeting on Monday November 7th.

Accessibility to Town Athletic Fields

Lisa Zerio reported on several efforts that are underway in town to improve accessibility to town fields. She also reported that the improvements to the fields at the high school would be part of a long-term comprehensive plan and could be very costly due to the existing terrain and layout of the area.

Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance

The members discussed the proposed Amendments for Inclusionary Zoning and agreed to send a letter of general support for efforts in town that align with the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan to increase affordable housing opportunities for residents and seniors looking to downsize.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

