

**CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
Monday, July 14, 2008**

Present: Edie Webb, Harold Matthews, Suzanne Bruner, Sally Schirk-Ehrlich, Alderman Paul Neumyer and Catherine Kiener, Director. Excused: JoAnn Stade
Guests: Warren Haseley, Richard Stoughton, Bev Schleg, Joan Murphy, and Chris Halbig-Ziem.

Suzanne Bruner called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Introductions were made.

1. Mr. Matthews moved to approve the May 12 minutes. Mrs. Webb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Dick Stoughton was the first to speak. He asked the Chair for 5 minutes as an active member of the Strategic Plan Committee he wanted to give background on the process the group took. The goal was for enlargement/expansion of the present site. The first meeting was January 2005. The next meeting reviewed delegation of follow up on information of demographics and a drawing of space based on needs. Aug. 2005 a meeting with the Mayor and City Administrator was held to update on the committee progress. In March 2006 the Committee discussed incorporation and establishment of a 501C-3, which the Friends of the Senior Center is an incorporated group and is waiting for final confirmation on 501C-3 status. The next step was to explore cost for a feasibility study with \$7,000 coming from the consultant. 11/30/2006 there were seniors at a council meeting for the approval of \$6,000 for the study, later reduced to 5,000. In 2007 the RFP was completed and sent out with Haag-Mueller selected to complete the study and requested to consider an expansion with a community center which Mr. Stoughton felt was a good request. Whereas the initial group feeling was keep the hub of activities in this building due to walking distance to various downtown locations, other sites were mentioned to consider and the group reviewed and determined not suitable. The Haag – Mueller presentation gave a square foot cost of \$139.00 for an expansion at present site, \$124.00 for a new Community Center facility, and \$110.00 for a stand alone new senior center on city owned property. There is a group in town that favors the present senior center for a historical society. The pros and cons of the coal dock were discussed with the Strategic Plan committee feeling that the Council needed to determine location.

Mrs. Murphy asked if there was land designated for a building.

Mr. Stoughton stated that money has to get in the budget to have the idea in front of the council.

Mr. Matthews asked Alderman Neumyer when the budget was to be prepared and he said it will begin in August. There was some discussion between the Chairman Mrs. Bruner and Mr. Stoughton on the next step in the process. With no other comments, the Commission resumed agenda.

3. Mrs. Webb moved to approve the bills to be paid by the city with a second from Alderman Neumyer. Director Kiener mentioned the thermostat is being kept a little higher this year. Alderman Neumyer recommends reviewing the bills biannually after he reviews with Mayor and City Administrator to ensure there are no statues directing otherwise. Motion to approve bills carries. Alderman Neumyer moves to recommend reviewing the bills biannually. Motion seconded by Mr. Matthews. Discussion: Alderman Neumyer stated the Director does a good job with managing the small city budget of the Center. It would save time if financial reports were reviewed less often. Motion carried.

4. Mrs. Webb moved to accept the Senior Center Financial summaries for May & June with a second by Alderman Neumyer. No discussion, motion carried.

5. Unfinished Business

A. The Election was tabled until August.

B. The donor signage to be ordered from Recognition specialists and installed by Park & Rec was shown. The completion date is by Aug. 11.

C. Mr. Haseley suggested raising the current backstop is the preferred option to improve safety. The Commission reviewed the detailed plan by Park & Rec that would include mulch. This was not preferred as it would eventually end up in the sand of the pit and the wings out from the backstop would be a tripping hazard. The Director will pursue a donation from Home Depot for the backstop timbers. One timber at each backstop would raise the height to about 18 inches. Mrs. Brunner moved to add an additional timber to bring the backstop height up to 18 inches to consider installing added timber to the bottom, no wings, no mulch, and no arborvitae. Motion Seconded by Mrs. Webb. Motion carried unanimously. No further discussion.

6. New Business

Copies of the strategic plan recommendation were distributed to the Commission members. Alderman Neumyer recommends having the Commission recommendation placed in the Capitol budget. **Mrs. Bruner moved to accept the recommendation of the Strategic Plan Committee.**

“The Port Washington Strategic Plan Committee unanimously recommends a new facility that will engage seniors and mutually benefit the community.” Alderman Neumyer seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion: The cost may dictate compromise on the building. Mrs. Ehrlich asked about the membership numbers. Mrs. Kiener reviewed the numbers for 3 years. In 2005 there were 531, 2006 was a peak year of 552, and in 2007 with non-renewals of aging members and deaths the number dropped to 504. The daily attendance average is 54. Mrs. Ehrlich asked about consolidating with Saukville. She recognizes the challenges of consolidation and gave an example from when she lived in Michigan. Mrs. Kiener stated she has tried to contact Saukville but without meetings being followed through on by Saukville Recreation Coordinator. Mrs. Bruner stated that joint ventures seem to fizzle between the communities. The Commission members stated Mr. Stoughton did a good job giving an overview. Various members concurred that it is

difficult to identify a location for the new building without knowing all the options.
Motion carried unanimously.

7. Director's Report

A. Senior Center Board Items: Mr. Jim Lowney will be appointed to fill the vacancy of Bob Zuba due to his death.

B. June/July Events

1. Sturgeon Bay trip was stated to be a good value.

2. Tea Punch is the theme for July Lakeside Tea Society.

3. The participants really commented on how nice the shirts looked this year.

C. Director's Comments on the Friends – The Friends are working on the literature for unrolling in September.

8. Adjournment at 8:35 PM. Next meeting August 11.