

Columbia Commission on Aging

May 27, 2015

Minutes

Attended: Paula Cahalan, Edith Prague, Jill Livingston, Cathie Rowe and Lyn Buonocore

Minutes: Edith moved to accept minutes as read. Paula seconded the motion. Voted to accept.

Chris Ramm was unable to attend the meeting, but gave the following information to Cathie about his current plans for the 55+ apartment community he is hopeful to build pending all the necessary approvals. These plans include the following:

1. 40-50 units 900-1,000 square feet per unit with an attached garage.
2. 70% will be one bedroom, 30% will be two bedrooms, all will have a loft area large enough to accommodate a sleep sofa for guests.
3. Interior will include hardwood floors throughout, tile bathrooms and carpet in the bedrooms. There are also plans for one full and one half bathroom per unit.
4. There will not be association fees of any kind.
5. There will be a separate building for meetings and gatherings.
6. The units will include basements for storage.
7. The property will include walking paths to the pond area for residents to enjoy.

He is hoping to have a small shopping center at the front of the property that would contain a very select group of stores that would benefit the residents and town at large that would be a "Columbia Town Center" area.

He said if all things go the way he hopes they will, building may begin in the late fall of this year.

Rental prices would be comparable to current market rates. As of this time, comparable market rates are from \$1,200.00-\$2,000.00 per month.

Chris will be joining us at our July meeting and will have more information to share with us at that point. He has asked us for suggestions that might be useful to residents. If you have any suggestions, please pass them on to Cathie and she will send them on to him.

Cathie made a suggestion for a designated area for raised bed gardens that people can use for growing vegetables and flowers if that is something they currently enjoy doing.

Paula then spoke about grant information for transportation that she was able to obtain from Cathy Osten's office. She gave the information to Jill for use by the transportation subcommittee. The main thrust of the information, is that the town needs to be infested. Jill will share the information with the transportation subcommittee when they meet.

Paula then reported on the communication subcommittee. The Gem is currently at the Senior Center, Library and is sent home with the Meals on Wheels program. At this time there were no other suggestions for creative ways of reaching more people.

Lyn Buonocore presented the subcommittee's findings on tablets versus iPads for our outreach program. While we could have purchased 6 Tablets for the same amount of money as 3 iPads, the security on the iPads for personal information, etc., was much better than the tablet. Discussion ensued and a motion was made by Edith to purchase 3 iPads, books, covers and protectors. The motion was seconded by Jill. The motion passed. We will be putting a note in the Gem about the use and loaning information. Cathie has volunteered to help people learn how to use them.

Under Old Business emergency magnets were again discussed. Lyn Buonocore will speak to Peter Starkel about getting them in hopes that the fire department will take care of this out of their budget.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:57 am

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Rowe

Received: December 28, 2015
At: 8:38 AM
Attest: Paula McHath - ass't
Town Clerk/ Assistant Town Clerk ^{TC}