

**City of West Haven, CT
West Haven Seniors Commission
Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, 13-May-2025**

An Organizational meeting of the West Haven Seniors Commission was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by Chairman Johnson at West Haven City Hall, 355 Main St. All those present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

John M. Carrano, Commissioner, Human Resources	Present
Alyssa Maddern, Director of Elderly Services	Present
Teddi McKenna, Commissioner	Present
Leonora Rodrigues, Commissioner	Present
Dominic Broccoli, Commissioner	Not Present
Debra Johnson, Chair	Present

1. Minutes of both 11-March-2025 and 8-April-2025

- Commissioner McKenna MOVED to accept the minutes of 11-March-2025 and 8-April-2025; SECONDED by Commissioner Rodriguez. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Input

- The Chairman opened the floor for Public Input and there were no speakers. Public portion was then closed

3. Communications

- Brief discussion on the City of West Haven Senior Highlights Newsletter for May and Happenings Happening for both May and June.

4. Report of the Director

- Discussion items resulting from the Report of the Director:
 - Commissioner Rodriguez discussed the transition to MySeniorCenter forthcoming. Asked if MySeniorCenter (MSC) will have their barcode tags also have the WHSC Member photos on the tag itself in case it is found, etc. and will the MSC barcode tags be available on cell phone digital wallets.
 - Director of Elderly Services stated there is the option to have a webcam photo of the WHSC Member within the MSC program, but no the actual barcode tag and that will need to follow up with MSC to see if the barcode tag is available on cell phone digital wallets
 - Director of Elderly Services mentioned there was a Quick Start Public Training on Zoom on 14-May-2025 and Department of Elderly Services would be attending as well as forthcoming dates for how-to tutorials for MSC within the month of June for active Members
- Commissioner Rodriguez asked for the cost of MySeniorCenter and what is included the costs
 - Director of Elderly Services stated the initial cost was \$3,600.00 and annual subscription is \$1,500.00. Director of Elderly Services mentioned the new Dell All-in-One touch screen computer had been ordered with the City and currently, awaiting actual IT set up of the computer with MySeniorCenter properly loaded on.
- Human Resources Commissioner discussed that the Budget has been approved and nothing was cut from the submitted version and will email it to the Commission when fully approved by City Council.
 - Discussion about the new hire of an Outreach and Activity Coordinator and Commissioner Rodriguez mentioned that the Milford Senior Center has a Social Service Coordinator at 30 hours/week and a Social Services Worker at 25 hours/week.

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- Commissioner McKenna asked if adults have a disability diagnosis, can they receive support from the Department of Elderly Services.
 - Director of Elderly Services stated the Department supports those who are 55 years and up. Commissioner Rodriguez mentioned how her Senior Center in Milford does 18 years and up and suggested may want to consider this in the future.
- Commissioner Rodriguez suggested the Director to consider using social media to introduce the new hire and Director expressed the new hire was introduced in the current City of West Haven Senior Highlights newsletter.
 - Discussion to involve the Mayor and Public Relations team to do a social media post on the Mayor's Facebook as well as post it on non-affiliated City Facebook groups.
 - Director explained such posts would only be on City operated groups and/or pages i.e. the Mayor's Facebook page, the West Haven Senior Center Facebook page, and the City Hall of West Haven, CT Facebook page.
- Director of Elderly Services explained the success of the massive Spring Cleaning that occurred during the last week of April; 2-40 yard dumpsters filled, Shred-It containers, multiple drop offs to Savers.

5. Report of the Commissioner:

- Discussion surrounding the current state of the transportation expenses and options and are at the final stages.
 - Commissioner McKenna asked if there is money that is saved with new transportation contract, where would that money go to which Commissioner of Human Resources stated it would stay within the Department of Elderly Services for that fiscal year
 - . Commissioner Rodriguez asked if the money can be redistributed within the Department and Commissioner McKenna suggested hiring a part-time worker if possible.
- Discussion of the forthcoming walkthrough of Molloy School on Wednesday, 14-May-2025 with the current Principal of Washington School and Director of Elderly Services.
 - Commissioner of Human Resources said that the students from Washington are still in Molloy until then of this school year and they will then be moving out to return to Washington School for next school year. Commissioner of Human Resources said bathrooms need to be remodeled for ADA compliancy and Commissioner McKenna asked about stairs within Molloy and Commissioner Carrano said he hopes to find out more information during the walk through as well as time goes on.
- Commissioner Rodriguez asked how Molloy School will be a community center, where will the youth be located and Commissioner of Human Resources said that there are still discussions for the all of the planning of Molloy and look forward to what is to come with the rebid RFP regarding the Conversion of Molloy that is set to close on 16-May-2025.
- Commissioner McKenna asked if the adult day center will return in the future and Director stated they refer those who may need an adult day care center (ADC) to local ADC's i.e. Mary Wade, Sunset Shores, etc. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that the Milford's Respite Program is for individuals with MCI, Dementia, or Alzheimer's Disease and it follows a social model versus a medical model, and it needs to have proper procedures in place to operate as it does.
- Director of Elderly Services spoke about an instance that had occurred at the Senior Center the previous week regarding hearing that a WHSC Member had stated their diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's Disease to a friend. Director of Elderly Services said she had created a Memorandum of Understanding to have and explain the options of the Member can do since the West Haven Senior Center is not an adult day center and submitted it to the City's Corporation Counsel.
 - Commissioner McKenna suggested to send it to local elder lawyer for a consult regarding this MOU since this population is their area of expertise. Commissioner Rodriguez suggested sending it to the Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personal (CASCP) email and see what other Senior Centers have experienced similar incidents and what they did to mediate as well as offered the Connecticut Home Care.

6. Old Business

- None

7. New Business

- Chair Johnson said she read that the City Council approved the changes for the Senior Tax Freeze Program and was looking forward for those to be able to utilize this program for the future.
 - Commissioner of Human Resources reiterated that the newly approved eligibility guidelines for individuals to qualify for this program.
 - Commissioner McKenna said how West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce (WHEAT) is always packed with those needing help.
- Commissioner Rodriguez said how she and Director of Elderly Services had attended a webinar from the State of Connecticut and heard about other Connecticut towns/cities are an Age-Friendly Community. She said that it takes a lot to build this community and uses 8 dimensions to be considered 'Age Friendly' and would like to have West Haven become this type of community because it can provide positive press and publicity and make citizens aware of what the City can offer them.
- Commissioner Rodriguez asked for the consideration for the populations to be served within the Molloy School location, would it be able to have a food pantry within the space?
 - Commissioner McKenna expressed that WHEAT had satellite spots, the number of those they are serving continues to increase all while it is a volunteer ran organization and that there have been very early, preliminary talks regarding expansion in satellite locations and Commissioner of Human Resources said he will find out more as time goes on, especially with the upcoming walkthrough.

8. Commissioner Reports

9. Adjournment

At 7:35 p.m., Commissioner McKenna MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Commissioner Rodriguez. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Carrano
Commissioner, Human Resources and Acting Recording Clerk

