

**November 18, 2004**

**Minutes**

**The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Anna Tucker at 10:05 a.m. Attendance was taken. The minutes for the October 21, 2004 meeting were approved upon a motion by Norm Chapman and a second by Steve Dresner and the entire group.**

**John Smollins asked if there were any further comments on the September 21, 2004, training for senior citizen Police advocates held at the Warwick Radisson Hotel.**

**Norm Chapman observed that good communications between seniors and advocates is a paramount need. Anna Tucker commented that her mother told her to tell “the unvarnished truth.” She praised the Warwick Senior Police Advocate. She is inviting her East Greenwich Advocate and his Chief to visit at her residence. Anna will continue her efforts.**

**Anna Prior makes a motion to continue her communication with the East Greenwich Police Advocate. Mary Cerra seconded the motion.**

**Jack Quigley indicated that he found the training to be positive. He was impressed by the suggestion of a 1-800 number for seniors to enhance communications with their Advocates.**

**Steve Dresner questioned if such a project were developed would it be 7 days a week 24 hour coverage. Steve inquired as to cost of such a system and amount of usage.**

**John Smollins suggested a representative of 911 be invited to attend the next meeting to determine how 911 works for elders.**

**Anna Tucker commissioned John to try to arrange for a 911 representative to enlighten the group on their accomplishments.**

**Gloria Heisler wondered how many calls the system might generate.**

**Lu Brennan reported on her efforts in Pawtucket. She communicates with Angelo Squadrito, the Pawtucket Police Advocate on senior issues. She volunteered to contact the Glenn Medeiros Cable Television Show to see if the senior Police Advocate Program could be featured on the show in the future.**

**Anna Prior discussed the limited number of Fire Advocates and described how the recruitment was initiated by Julian Zienowicz, a former member, from North Providence.**

**Norm Chapman indicated that some areas have 3 or 4 different volunteer Fire Department. John Smollins passed out the recent edition of Prime Time Newspaper to the members.**

**Tony Zompa, Director of the Johnston Senior Center, visited briefly and received many plaudits for his hospitality.**

**Anna Prior made a motion for Anna Tucker to appoint a subcommittee to prepare an annual report to the Legislature on activities and accomplishments of the commission. Mary Cerra seconded the motion.**

**Anna Tucker praised Sandra Jones, the West Warwick Senior Citizen Police Advocate, for her efforts to bring Christmas to seniors.**

**Steve Dresner mentioned the work of former commission member, Thelma Rocha, for her efforts as a volunteer Ombudsperson in nursing homes. Anna Prior concurred in his comments.**

**The mission statement authored by Anna Prior and Norm Chapman was adapted with minor adjustments to number (5) to read “Develop an easy to use advocate communication system that guarantees immediate response to seniors’ safety and care needs.” Jack Quigley moved passage and Mary Cerra seconded it. The group approved it.**

**Jack Quigley inquired as to how to get more Fire Advocates involved. Anna Prior mentioned the Fire Chief Association as a good start.**

**Steve Dresner made a motion to hold the next meeting at the Leon Mathieu Senior Center, 420 Main Street Pawtucket, RI at 10:00 a.m. on**

**Thursday, December 9, 2004.**

**At 11:40 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Steve Dresner and seconded by Gloria Heisler, Mary Cerra and Lu Brennan.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**John Smollins, Jr., Esq.**

**Legal Counsel**

**Department of Elderly Affairs**