19th Charter Revision Commission City of Stamford Appointed Boards & Commissions Committee Meeting Minutes January 5, 2023

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Larobina at 3:06 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners, Larobina, Bilicznianski, Kolenberg, Lane, Bowser, Michelson and Halpern. Also present were Christina Crain, Jody Pullan and Sharona Cowan.

Agenda Item Number 3:

The first person to address the Committee was the director of the Stamford Senior Center, Christina Crain. She informed the Committee that there are 30,000 citizens over the age of 60 in Stamford. The Stamford Senior Center is the smallest in Fairfield County and receives the smallest amount of financial contribution from the City. Currently there is no Commission on Aging. Ms. Crain was of the opinion that there is value in a commission since seniors are underrepresented. Discussion centered around the advisory role of a commission.

The second person to address the Committee was the health director, Jody Pullan. She informed the Committee that the health commission serves in an advisory capacity and she meets with them on a regular basis. She finds the interaction with the commission helpful. She stated she feels it is important for at least a few members of the commission to have a health background. She pointed out that the commission hears appeals from orders of the health director, housing code enforcement and food establishment appeals.

The third person to address the Committee was the director of social services, Sharona Cowan. The discussion centered on the issues with obtaining a quorum of the social services commission and like the health commission the qualifications of the individuals who serve. Discussion was also had about the broad responsibilities of the commission and possibly moving some of those responsibilities to another commission allowing the social services commission to focus on the core functions of the department.

The Committee adjourned at 5:15 pm upon motion made by Commissioner Lane, seconded by Commissioner Kolenberg and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Larobina, Chair

January 9, 2023