

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of May 23, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Sandra Bisson; Meg Coffin; Ursula Hanus; Paul Johnson; Nghia Le; Richard Pinkes; Gail Schuyler; Elizabeth Nguyen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elaine Wrubel; EXCUSED: Robin Bahr Casey; Tom Cullinane; Chris Evans; Matthew Fonseca

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters, Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek-Moore; Mary Parenteau & Lou Swan, Elder Services of Worcester Area; City Councilor Moe Bergman

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Theresa. Nghia Le was introduced and welcomed as a new Commission member.

Mary Parenteau reported on Elder Services' Protective Services program, distributed handouts to Commission members and answered questions. Their program is funded by the State Executive Office of Elder Affairs to investigate reports of elder abuse including physical, emotional, sexual, financial, as well as self-neglect or neglect by a caregiver. Certain professionals are mandated reporters, but anyone can report a suspected case of elder abuse by calling 508-852-3205 or 1-800-922-2275.

The Commission minutes of April 25, 2016 were approved as distributed. m/s/a

The Senior Center Committee Report of May 10, 2016 was approved as distributed. m/s/a

Amy gave the Director's report, highlighting parts of the goals and objective update including: FY'17 City funding for the Division may be virtually level to FY'16 and the budget hearing is May 31st before Council; State funding of the formula grant may be increased by \$1.00 per elder; depending upon action by the legislature and Governor; The Memory Café received a grant from MCOA via ESWA; The Shared Worlds program was a very interesting forum, 2 hours & 6 languages. The event was videotaped and will be available hopefully in a few months; The summary of the annual senior center participant survey was reviewed. 97% responded having a positive experience at the center and the average age is 75; The status of the vacant part of the building and the parking lot are being actively worked on with the City administration.

Patty reported on the following: part of the old clinic space is being turned into 2 workspaces, a panic button will be installed at the front desk in case of emergencies; The Memory Café has met twice now and people seemed to enjoy their time; The Veterans Day program will be Wed 5/25; In June the Sheriff will hold a safety fair at the Center and the summer concert series will start.

Linda reported on the evidence based programs schedule.

Theresa confirmed that the next meeting is scheduled for June 27 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned.