

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of September 27, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Robin Bahr Casey; Sandra Bisson; Meg Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Christopher Evans; Njeri Gichohi; Paul Johnson; Nghia Le; Elizabeth Nguyen; Richard Pinkes; Gail Schuyler

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Matthew Fonseca; Ursula Hanus

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters, Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek-Moore; Saeideh Mahdavisefat, Intern

Theresa called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Members introduced themselves. She noted that there will be a speaker from the Senior Companion Program at the October meeting. The Commission minutes of June 27, 2016 were approved as mailed. m/s/a The Senior Center Committee minutes of Sept. 13, 2016 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

Amy highlighted portions of the Goals and Objectives report and answered Commission member's questions on various topics, as follows: Tax Levy funding for the Division was increased for adjustments to salaries in FY 2017 and the Council on Aging State Grant funding will be at least level to last year, with a possible increase depending upon state revenues. The Central Mass Agency on Aging has awarded funds for the Osteoporosis Prevention Program, and the Friends will also be contributing to Senior Center Programs. The Prevention Wellness Trust Fund will go on for another year and a grant has been submitted to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

The November Commission meeting will have a speaker from Mass Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. They have received a grant from the Mass. Association for Councils on Aging to establish an assistive technology center at our Senior Center. Work continues on strengthening the multi-cultural elder groups at the senior center. Interns/Students from Boston College School of Social Work, Clark University, Mass. College of Pharmacy, Quinsigamond Community College and nursing students from Worc. State University and UMass Medical School are all working at the Senior Center in some capacity this fall. There are also many volunteers from RSVP and Friends. An ENCORE Fellow who will be working 20 hours/week for a year on transportation research and design will be starting Oct. 11th.

Leases at the senior center generate \$79,000/year for the City and all available spaces are currently filled. Two work stations have been established in the current clinic reception area. The computer lab has been condensed which makes available another meeting room. Amy reported on the newspaper accounts of the parking lot update and the impending demolition of the Anderson Building. Local media also promotes our programming. There were over 12,000 hits on the Senior Center webpage last year and 370 "likes" on Facebook so far. Staff has been participating in various fairs in the community. The senior center partnered with 269 instructors and organizations last year to provide programs.

Patty reported on the Summer Concert Series and other programs held over the summer, as well as upcoming programs. UMass is hosting its 5th Annual Health and Safety Fair at the senior center in October. Linda reported on the Falls Prevention Program and the various exercise classes being held that are part of that initiative. Flu shots will be available at the center on two upcoming dates. There was discussion about insurance open enrollment and Mass Health. Patty also reported that the windows on the main floors of the old building are being secured for safety purposes. The HVAC upgrade is in the planning process.

Linda reported on Outreach Activities and her work with Worc. State University nursing students and QCC Human Services Dept. intern. UMass Graduate Nursing students will be back in October to conduct health topic programs. She will also be working with the UMass Geriatric Clerkship this fall. A new 6-week class on Diabetes Self Management has started with 11 participants.

Theresa reported on the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center Inc.'s Annual Meeting Fri 9/23 where they presented a check to the Senior Center for \$2,000 in support of programming.

Saeidah introduced herself as the new Boston College M.S.W. intern. Her focus will be supporting services for Iraqi elders.

The next meeting date is Mon. Oct 24th at 4:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned.