

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of March 25, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair; Meg Coffin; Paul Franco; Nancy Greenberg; Paul Johnson; Fran Langille; Nghia Le; Elizabeth Nguyen; Chizoma Nosike; Mariana O'Brien; Richard Pinkes; Cathy Rao; Richard Shea; Caroline Sullivan

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Lindita Taka, Ron Motta-Friends of Worcester's Senior Center, Mohan Sunwar & Ward Abdulky -Ascentria's New American's Outreach Program

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Members were reminded to fill out their bios and Amy will distribute to all. Paul was thanked for the idea

The Commission minutes of Feb. 25, 2019 were approved as distributed. m/s/a

Members were reminded that the next Commission meeting is Mon. April 22nd and they were informed that, due to the Memorial Day holiday, the May Commission meeting will be held on May 20th

Mohan Sunwar & Ward Abdulky reported on Ascentria's New American's Outreach Program . The City funding is targeted to Arabic speaking elders, mainly from Iraq and Syria. The participants have made great strides towards independent living and have become very active at the Senior Center. Commission members' questions were addressed.

Amy gave the Directors Report and updated members on the FY 2020 budget process, the Commission approved letter over the City Manager's signature was sent to legislators. The State approved a 3-year award of \$9800/year to support multicultural programs. The lease for a new tenant, Prime Movement LLC, has been finalized. Amy was contacted by the Worc. Business Journal for an article on loneliness; Channel 3 TV continues to cover events at the center.

Patty reported on recent and upcoming programs, such as Dementia Friendly Worcester, Earth Day, Community Gardens and the volunteer recognition programs to which Commission members were invited. Updates were given on Senior Aide staffing, security and building items. A tentative ground breaking is scheduled for June 3rd.

Lindita reported on outreach to the Worcester Housing Authority elder buildings, the upcoming health and safety fair as well as the evidence based Tai Chi program she is teaching.

Ron reported on the activities of the Friends of Worcester Senior Center, including the sale of Friends shirts to raise funds.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.