

Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs
Worcester Senior Center Committee Meeting 2/14/17

Present: Theresa Eckstrom-Chair; Tom Cullinane, Chris Evans, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters, Saeideh Mahdavisefat

The meeting was called to order by Theresa at 4 pm. The minutes from 1/10/17 were accepted (m/s/a). The next meeting date was verified as Tues. 3/14/17 at 4, although a special meeting may be called sooner to facilitate an allocation decision.

Finances: Amy reported and the Committee discussed the following: The FY'17 COA grant funds were fully transferred from the state to the city this month and an expenditure plan was distributed; More information was requested and will be obtained regarding the need for funding the nutrition program; FY'18 proposed requests for capital and operating tax levy were discussed, including the need for another senior services staff assistant; It was noted that future of PWTF funding remains unclear; a change in the program self-evaluation form was suggested and will be made to encourage programs to be specific about any expansion needs; Changes in the Senior Companion (Family Services) and QCC leases were made as previously approved; the CEO of St. Vincent Hospital visited the Senior Center and negotiations continue regarding the parking lot and Anderson Building. Saedeh reported that 21 members of the Arabic Elder Group (Ascentria) as well as all the other multi-cultural programs attended today's "Senior Services" presentation and could understand it via interpreters; she also noted the difficulties presented by the federal travel ban for some of our population.

Operations: Patty reported and the Committee discussed the following: the HVAC is working better; the dishwasher will be replaced; the elevator will be fixed; the renovations for the clinic move and arts & crafts room will begin in March; the weather has created the usual winter challenges; AARP Tax preparation got off to a slow start due to software glitches, but is going well now; Upcoming programs include Black History, a film and speaker about the holocaust, St. Patrick's Day, evidence based programs, skin cancer education and screening and April's volunteer recognition event. During the discussion of the clinic move, there was also discussion about a possible change in the maintenance of records to strengthen continuity of care.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.