

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of June 18, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Robin Bahr Casey; Meg Coffin; Paul Franco; Nancy Greenberg; Elizabeth Nguyen; Richard Pinkes; Cathy Rao; Caroline Sullivan; Richard Shea

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Christopher Evans; Nghia Le/ Paul Johnson; Tom Cullinane

STAFF PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek-Moore

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Theresa. The 2 new members were welcomed and introductions were made. Harvard Pilgrim was recognized for their donation of \$5,000 to go towards the summer concert series and supplies for the senior center clinic. The first concert will be 6/20/18.

The Commission minutes of March 26 and April 23, 2018 were approved as mailed. m/s/a
The Senior Center Committee report of May 8, 2018 was approved as mailed with the following motion added:

In addition to what is included in the Senior Center Committee Report it is recommended that Amy negotiate the Quinsigamond Community College lease which is up for renewal July 1, 2018 within a range of their current fee and \$1.00 per square foot more. m/s/a

Dick commented on the May Volunteer Recognition Event and the thank you gift of cups & spoons were available to those members who did not attend.

Amy reviewed the "Age Friendly" movement with members and provided folders with written material. Some highlights included: initial meetings have taken place among the elder services network and the city administration to discuss applying to AARP to be designated as an Age Friendly Community; the effort has begun by ensuring there is senior input into various local surveys and planning efforts; Worcester's Department of Public Health's Community Health Improvement Plan structure will facilitate our Age Friendly efforts; and Amy will keep the Commission apprised, welcoming assistance. Dick S. suggested that early prevention for Alzheimer's could be part of this effort and Robin offered NAMI's support on elder mental health issues.

The goals and objective report was reviewed and discussed. Amy's highlights included: The FY 2019 City Manager's budget recommendation was approved by City Council and includes an 8.6% increase for staff salaries and mitigating the impact of losing the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund grant; The full time receptionist position was not included in the City budget, but a temporary 19 hr/week receptionist will be hired with State funds; The Senate has recommended an increase in the Elder Affairs budget for \$11/per elder, which amounts to an additional \$29,000 for Worcester, but this has not yet been finalized; An application has been submitted to AARP to fund a caregiver's program; AARP and the Mass. Assoc. of Councils on Aging have requested the Worc. Senior Center be a site for a job seekers program twice a month; The summary of the annual Senior Center participant survey was distributed and reviewed; The 11/hr week Club 60 Latino Elder Group Coordinator position is in the last stage of the hiring process; and The renovations to the building and parking lot are slated to start in September or October .

Patty reported on the following: students working at the center during the summer; many upcoming programs/events including one to introduce our new WDPH nurse; The No Evil ribbon cutting will be 6/26; Various artists have been and will continue to be featured on the walls of the diner area.; The air conditioning is not currently working on the 2nd or 3rd floor, but is being addressed again; and, The community gardens are up and growing; and Volunteers from the Life Song church worked over the past weekend on the patio planters, seating and gardens.

Linda reported on students working with her in the fall on various health programs; A Healthy Eating class is currently being held and another one will be held in the fall along with a Diabetes class; as a Master Trainer she provided A Matter of Balance leader training for others; Staff attended various community health fairs and seminars; and the Worcester Housing Authority transportation to and from the Senior Center was approved to continue next year.

The next meeting is scheduled for Mon. Sept. 24th. The meeting adjourned at 5 pm. (m/s/a)