

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of October 28, 2019

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elizabeth Nguyen; Nancy Greenberg

STAFF PRESENT & GUEST: Amy Vogel Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek Moore; Maureen Siergie, Elder Services

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m by Robin Bahr Casey. She announced that Maureen Siergie, Exec. Director of Elder Services of Worcester Area will be retiring in Dec. after 39 years. She was thanked for her service and given a token of appreciation.

Paul Johnson, Meg Coffin and Cathy Rao were thanked for their time served on the Commission. Chizoma Nosike has been appointed to the Senior Center Committee.

The Commission minutes of Sept. 23, 2019 were approved as distributed. m/s/a
The Senior Center Report of October 8, 2019 was approved as distributed. m/s/a/

Maureen Siergie reported on the history and programs offered/managed by Elder Services of Worcester Area, our ASAP (Aging Services Access Point). A hand-out was distributed with this information. She informed the Commission that the early focus, continued today, is on home care and case management, however there are many new programs and younger disabled people are also served. She noted that eligibility income is no longer capped and people may receive services via co-pays. As to major issues needing attention, she highlighted the workforce shortage and the changes in Mass. Health. Maureen answered Commission members' questions.

Amy gave the Director's Report highlighting some of the updates including: the state contracting process is underway; Country Bank gave an unsolicited donation of \$2,000 to the Friends for the 3rd year in a row; Ron Motta has stepped down as President of the Friends and Nick Daviau is now President; Work has started on the 2020 Community Health Plan which will integrate Age Friendly; Dawn Skoglund is the new Principal Clerk at the front desk; Andrew Davis is the new part-time African American Group Coordinator; Amy received the MCOA Lifetime Achievement Award at their Oct. annual conference; She and Yung also held a workshop at the conference on why it's worth the effort to create a multi-cultural senior center; There are 2 openings on the Commission and members were encouraged to refer interested people; There is no changes to any of the leases; A meeting was held with contractors for the parking lot renovations and a second meeting with contractors who will be demolishing the Anderson Building... Time lines should be developed soon; A Request for Proposal for the vacant wing will be going before City Council on Nov. 12th; The deadline to expend the MassWorks grant for renovation is June 2020; The Central Mass Area on Agency's 45th Anniversary Open House was celebrated at the senior center and the State Secretary of Elder Affairs Elizabeth Chen spoke at the event; and, Work continues with the Census Bureau to ensure everyone gets counted.

Highlights of Patty's report include: the multi-cultural pot luck was a success again this year; She gave the schedule for the new multi-cultural lunches to be provided at the senior center once a week as the alternate meal to the regular lunch; The Veteran's Day Program will be held on Nov. 8th; A Dementia

Friendly training was held at the center and will be held with city employees in various locations; There is now an intercom system working at the senior center.

Linda spoke about the UMass Memorial Geriatric Clerkship and Fall Risk Assessments, outreach to Worcester Housing Authority buildings which has generated more Senior Center participants, and that SHINE Counselors are busy because it's open enrollment period.

The next meeting is scheduled for Mon. Nov. 25th at 4:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned. (m/s/a)