

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of April 22, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Miller, Chair; Robin Bahr Casey; Tom Cullinane; Jocelyn Jacques-Curewitz; Theresa Eckstrom; Chris Evans; Steven Smajkiewicz; Elaine Wrubel

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Carolyn Grenier, Ursula Hanus, Gail Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephen Greenberg, Nick Kaltsas

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters, Betsy Connell, Linda Wincek-Moore, Gail Bourque--St. Paul's Elders Outreach, Gary Rosen and Ron Motta--Friends of Worcester's Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. at 128 Providence St. Ruth called for a moment of silence for the Boston Marathon bombing victims. Ruth announced that Betsy Connell will be moving on to another job with the State Dept. of Health & Human Services and will be greatly missed. She also reported that the Volunteer Recognition will be held on Friday, April 26th and Amy distributed a token of appreciation to Commission members in case they were not able to attend.

The minutes of March 25, 2013 were approved as mailed. m/s/a The Senior Center Committee minutes of 3/12/13 and 4/9/13 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

Amy gave an update on the goals and objectives report, including: GWCF has awarded \$15,000 for the Evidence Based Programs. In a few months, GWCF will announce more awards and hopefully the Senior Support Team will receive funding. The State has awarded an additional \$5000 for the Senior Support Team for this fiscal year. Amy reported on her meeting with the City's Budget Dept on the FY 14 budget, and the meeting to take place to make adjustments due to the upcoming Assistant Director vacancy. Programming to date is at 104% of the annual goal and Amy highlighted events. She continues to work closely with the WRTA concerning transportation. Iraqi, Burmese, Vietnamese, and Chinese Groups continue to meet at the Senior Center. Linda is teaching a Matter of Balance series held at Centro las Americas again. With input from the Law Department, the Senior Center Committee approved the policy as it stands currently concerning politicians running for office visiting the senior center. Amy reported working with DPH on the issues the Senior Center has with the yellow box for disposal of used needles on site. There was discussion about security at the Senior Center and it will be taken up again at a Senior Center Committee meeting. Amy reported on various meetings she and staff have attended.

Betsy reported on building issues such as further sprinkler system repairs and the improvements to be made by various volunteers and the Landscaper. She also reported on the Senior Support Team and transition plans. Linda reported on Evidence Based programs, SHINE, tax preparation, the walking club, the Geriatric Clerkship and outreach efforts.

Gary Rosen reported on the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center trips and sponsorship programs used to raise funds. He reported that on Wed., 4/24 there will be a dedication of the newly renovated pool room courtesy of a major donor and Friends, and members were invited to attend. Ron Motta spoke about the first year of Friends Bingo at the Senior Center which is becoming a growing source of income. Gail Bourque from the St. Paul's Elder Outreach Program reported on the program's activities and a successful case.

Ruth announced that the next meeting will be May 20th, which is the Third Monday of May due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

In response to Tom's question, Amy replied there is a Health and Human Services Committee of the City Council which meets periodically. It was suggested the Commission meet with that Committee to make sure they know all the good that the senior center does. Gary Rosen explained the process of submitting items to go before Council and its subcommittees. This was referred to the Senior Center Committee for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned.