

## COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

### Minutes of June 22, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair; Meg Coffin; Theresa Eckstrom; Ursula Hanus; Paul Johnson; Gail Schuyler; Steven Smajkiewicz; Elaine Wrubel

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sandra Bisson; Tom Cullinane; Chris Evans; Matthew Fonseca; Victor Ortiz; Gail Smith; Absent – Elizabeth Nguyen

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of April 27, 2015 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

The Senior Center Committee Report of June 9, 2015 was approved as mailed. m/s/a It was noted that the committee worked very hard with staff to recommend the allocations in the report (attached). Since the Commission members decided not to meet on July 27, they authorized the Senior Center Committee members to make final decisions regarding funding of programs for FY 2016. Members also agreed to not meet in August unless some business needs to be attended to immediately. (m/s/a)

Amy updated members on the goals and objectives for FY 15: City Council has approved level funding for FY 16 plus agreed upon salary increases for non-union employees; State funding is likely to be \$9/per elder which would be a \$29,000 increase over FY 15; the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center has pledged \$28,000 for next year and would like \$8,000 spent on facility improvements and equipment; the money from the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund has begun flowing to the St. Paul's staff for state approved home assessments; there were 412 different programs presented at the senior center in FY 15, a 3% increase over last year; the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary informal open house was a success and covered by Channel 3 News; A 19 hour/week temporary position will be hired to manage the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund; staff had 3 trainings funded by the State; the Senior Center Survey has been completed and participants are pleased with their experience here; there are now 2 Senior Aides covering the front desk; the Quinsigamond Community College lease is in the process of being signed and includes a rent increase; there are 159 Likes on the Senior Center Facebook page and a Clark student will be making a video for the center this summer; and the Program Coordinator received an award for facilitating the partnership with the Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Patty reported on programs and building issues: Lt. Annie Pickett received her National Safety Award and was honored at a Senior Center event; the REC Mobile Market will be at the center on Tuesday mornings until October; the Summer concerts series starts on Wednesday with Jack Craig; the new landscaper has begun work and we are preparing to implement the new security system.

Linda reported on Advocacy and Outreach issues, including the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund home visits for fall prevention assessments; the evidence based programs continue to be held at the center; and the Geriatric Fall Prevention Clerkship is starting up for the year and will be incorporated into the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund work.

The meeting adjourned

Report to Commission on Elder Affairs  
Senior Center Committee June 9, 2015

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Theresa Eckstrom, Chris Evans, Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth.

Absent: Tom Cullinane, Gail Schuyler

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of April 14<sup>th</sup> were approved (m/s/a).

Finances: Amy reviewed the following: City Council approved our FY'16 budget; While the full FY'16 State budget is not finalized, it appears that the COA line item will be approved at the level of \$9/elders; The Friends of Worcester's Senior Center has pledged \$25,000 for FY'16 plus an additional \$3,000 for a facility improvement project; the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund administered by DPH has been activated and payment for a portion of services has been received.

The committee reviewed various program allocations and evaluation information and considered different scenarios. It was decided to hold off on allocating the \$29,000 increase expected from state COA. After discussion, the following was recommended for FY'16 (m/s/a):

African American Elder Program	\$4,368 (\$3,240 tax levy + \$1,128 COA)
Computer Lab	\$6,000 (\$3,000 tax levy + \$3,000 Friends)
Elder Home Maintenance	\$17,995 (\$17,138 tax levy + \$857 COA)
Elder Outreach St. Paul's	\$62,488 (\$51,512 tax levy + \$10,976 COA)
Elder Outreach Ascentria	\$ 5,460 (COA)
Interpreters (non-grant)	\$ 7,000(\$4,000 tax levy + \$3,000 Friends)
Latino Elder Program	\$12,810(\$9,800 tax levy+2,310COA+700GWCF)
Senior Work Search	\$ 2,760 (COA)
Transportation	<u>\$22,525</u> (\$20,000tax levy+\$2,525 Friends)
	\$141,406
Proposals to be sought to increase Services for Latino, Iraqi, and Bhutanese Elders	<u>\$16,781</u> (\$1269 tax levy + 15,512 COA)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$158,187</b> (\$109,959 tax levy+\$39,003 COA + \$700 GWCF + \$8,525 Friends)

The committee discussed the renewal of the lease of two classrooms for Quinsigamond Community College for three years and recommended an increase in rent. Regarding development of the 26 wing, Amy reported that there is still an interested party but no letter verifying this has been received yet.

Operations: Amy reported that final interviews will take place this week for the part-time PWTF Staff Assistant. Patty briefly reviewed the status of renovations and landscaping. Programs were not reviewed due to lack of time.

Robin determined that the next meeting of the committee will be July 14, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. and called for adjournment at 5:30 p.m. (m/s/a)