

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of February 24, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Margaret Coffin; Theresa Eckstrom; Chris Evans; Stephen Greenberg; Ursula Hanus; Paul Johnson; Nick Kaltsas; Steven Smajkiewicz; Gail Schuyler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Robin Bahr Casey; Tom Cullinane; Carolyn Grenier; Victor Ortiz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gail Smith, Elaine Wrubel

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Song-Jin Yang

In the absence of the Chair, Steve Greenberg announced that the April Commission meeting will be held on Wed. April 23rd instead of Monday April 28th because City Manager Augustus will be attending. He also announced that the Worcester Community Action Council has awarded the Senior Center's Knit & Crochet for Fun Group and Patty Hainsworth for its Action Hero Award. The event will be held Thursday May 15th 5-7:30 at Club Maxine. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Steve. The Commission minutes of January 27, 2014 were approved as mailed. m/s/a The Senior Center Report was approved as mailed. m/s/a

Amy gave her staff report with highlights including: the coalition organized by the Dept. of Public Health received a multi-year grant and the Senior Center's piece has to do with fall prevention; Budget planning for FY 15 has begun; The grant application for Promoting Healthy Aging/Evidence Based Programs has been submitted to the Fallon OrNda Fund of Greater Worcester Community Foundation; An application has been submitted to Clark University requesting their students work on a marketing video for the senior center over the summer months; The City's Cable Services Dept. is working with the Senior Center on upgrading the multi-media system in the lunchroom before June 30th; and the Retired Men's Club of Greendale gave a generous donation to the Friends recently. Paul J. noted that the organization was pleased with the set up and snow removal taken care of in time for their early morning meeting.

Amy also reported on a meeting about possible ways to collaborate with the Library in addition to having the mobile library here monthly; The new City Manager and his staff visited the senior center recently meeting with staff and participants; A new Senior Aide is being trained for the front desk and there is also a new Senior Aide working on building services; and The Energy & Asset Mgmt Dept has hired a full time worker who is assigned to the Senior Center every afternoon.

Patty reported on programs in February and March, as well as handling snow issues. The annual spring cleanup is scheduled for April 10th and the Volunteer Recognition to which Commission members are invited will be held April 11th. Among many other programs, Patty highlighted some new programs developed to attract the active senior such as cooking, ceramics, and country line dancing.

Linda reported on: the Evidence Based Programs completed recently & those starting up soon; The Albanian Elder Group will be having their first coffee hour this week; The Iraqi Elder Group continues to enjoy coming here; A Worcester State intern is helping with the Polish Independence Day as well various participant issues; UMass Nursing students have been running the Healthy Living Support Group & one of them will be speaking on diabetes; and, The Senior Support Team continues to meet noting that one third of January's 911 calls have been fall related. Theresa noted that there has been an increase in falls with the seniors she works with also. Helping people get over the embarrassment from falls so that they may receive help, was also discussed.

The next Commission meeting was confirmed for Mon. March 24th & the meeting was adjourned(m/s/a)