

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of October 26, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr-Casey, Chair; Tom Cullinane; Theresa Eckstrom; Chris Evans; Matthew Fonseca; Paul Johnson; Victor Ortiz; Gail Schuyler; Steve Smajkiewicz; Elaine Wrubel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Bisson-Excused, Meg Coffin-Excused; Ursula Hanus; Elizabeth Nguyen

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. Robin announced that this is her last meeting and Theresa Eckstrom has been appointed the new chairperson by the City Manager. Steve's term on the Commission is also over. Both were thanked for their service to elders in the community. Members were encouraged to suggest interested people to become members of the Commission. The Commission minutes of Sept 28, 2015 were approved as mailed. m/s/a The Senior Center Committee Report of 10/13/15 was approved as mailed. m/s/a

Amy reviewed the goals and objectives update: The quarterly budget review with the city went fine; The Title IIID grant from CMAA for osteoporosis prevention received a small increase over last year's award; A meeting and tour was given to the new Head of HHS, Dr. Mattie Castiel and she will be attending the November Commission meeting; An application has been submitted to the State Elder Affairs for their Service Incentive Grant; Elder Affairs is working with Clark University on a "Shared Worlds" project which involves learning about newcomers to the United States and how they relate to other people and society, and also the experience of people who have resided in the U.S. for many years; Support letters have been written for various Arts Council applications for programs at the Senior Center; The Friends of Worcester's Senior Center annual meeting was held recently and Ron Motta is the new President; Gary Rosen has stepped down as President and will continue as a Board Member; There was much discussion on the Over 50 Exercise class; Yearly staff performance appraisals are being completed; Staff attended various workshops at the recent annual MCOA annual meeting; Seniors Helping Seniors Office will be moving to bigger space within the center this week; Block Grant funds may help move the clinic from its current location at the end of the hall to a soon to be vacant office by the elevator; A lease extension for the parking lot has been granted and it is hoped renovations will happen in the spring; There was discussion on the possible future of the 1926 portion of the building.

Patty reported on October and November activities: The multi-cultural potluck was successful again this year; The seniors are helping out with the decorations and entertainment for the December holiday party on Dec. 9th; The Center is busy with insurance open enrollments; The Veterans Day event is in memory of Carl Schaeffer who recently passed and was very active in senior center Veteran activities; New lobby furniture is being purchased with the John Binienda fund and a ceremony is being planned for December 11th; Glitches in the new security system are being worked out. Linda reported on advocacy work, evidence based program activity and her guidance of the UMass Medical students' clerkship focused on falls prevention. She noted that our Center's seniors and staff have raised close to \$270 for the Alzheimer's Walk. The next meeting date is Nov. 23rd. The meeting adjourned.