

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of January 25, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Meg Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Matthew Fonseca; Ursula Hanus; Paul Johnson; Elizabeth Nguyen; Richard Pinkes; Gail Schuyler; Elaine Wrubel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Bisson; Chris Evans, Excused

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Waters; Linda Wincek Moore; Suki Lapin; Lauren St. Pierre; Ron Motta, Friends of Worcester's Senior Center; Rosemarie Highlands & Vo Roberts, St. Paul's Elder Outreach; Sam Niford & Mike Cahill, Central Mass Housing Alliance

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Richard Pinkes was introduced as a new Commission Member. It was also announced that Victor Ortiz had resigned due to a job change. There are still 3 openings on the Commission.

Mike Cahill and Sam Niford reported on the activities of the Elder Home Maintenance Program of the Central Mass Housing Alliance and answered member's questions.

Rosemarie Highlands and Vo Roberts reported on the St. Paul's Elder Outreach Program activities and answered member's questions.

The minutes of November 23, 2015 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

The Senior Center 1/12/16 Report to the Commission was approved as mailed. m/s/a

Amy highlighted items on the goals and objectives report. The Governor did not cut any funds from the Elder Affairs budget and some small grants were awarded through the Arts Council for programs at the center. Collaborative grant writing is being done between Elder Affairs, Family Health Center and Elder Services. Transportation issues are being addressed. Amy reported that she has weekly meetings with the new HHS Commissioner who is very supportive and helpful. Security issues are being addressed and a Homeland Security Police Officer will be holding a staff training at the center. In early February the new Publisher of the Telegram & Gazette is visiting the Senior Center as part of a Union Hill tour.

Suki highlighted some upcoming programs. Linda reported on outreach efforts. The Vietnamese Matter of Balance class is finishing up and a Spanish Matter of Balance will be starting up soon. The Vietnamese and Chinese elder groups will be celebrating the Lunar New Year.

Ron Motta reported on the activities of the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center and a recent appearance on "Senior Speak" and "Activate Worcester".

Theresa reported that Ursula Hanus has been appointed to the Senior Center Committee by the City Manager. Members were reminded to fill out and return the Conflict of Interest papers.

The next meeting was confirmed for Mon. 2/22. The meeting adjourned.