

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Senior Center Committee Meeting 4/20/17

Present: Theresa Eckstrom-Chair, Tom Cullinane, Chris Evans, Gail Schuyler,
Guest: Paul Johnson, Staff: Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth.

Theresa called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. The minutes of the 3/21/17 meeting were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for 5/9/17.

Finances: Amy reported that funding for FY'18 remains uncertain, however the House Ways and Means has approved the amount needed for the \$10/elder resident formula for the state COA grant and that there are additional legislative steps to come.

The Committee reviewed a letter from the Director of the Elder Services Nutrition Program which requested support to meet the growing need for seniors. With funds still available in the Elder Affairs program budget, the Committee approved an FY'17 allocation of \$5,537 contingent upon there being no guarantee about our providing funding in the future. (m/s/a)

The Committee began reviewing information to assist in making FY'18 allocation recommendations. The various components of the Division of Elder Affairs budget were discussed, clarifying the Committee's role as it relates to the program component. The discussion also turned to communication with elected officials on legislative and budgetary matters, noting that employees of the City (including Commission members) are prohibited from lobbying but may provide information contingent upon approval of the City Manager.

Amy reported that Work Opportunities Unlimited has given notice that they will not be renewing their lease of two offices on the third floor as of the end of April 2017. The Committee approved allowing the City's Youth Office to move into these offices contingent upon the City Manager's approval. It was noted that the synergy expected to be created by this move would enhance intergenerational programming. Another tenant also expressed interest in utilizing one of the offices and this will be considered if the Youth Office will not be moving in.

Amy reported that plans are being developed for the parking lot renovation and distributed information on this. She also reported that a Request for Proposals is being drafted for use of the vacant wings of the building and that the draft will be presented to the Commission and the public before going out to bid.

Operations: Patty reported on the anticipated leaving of a Senior Aide and interns. She also noted that the clinic relocation is in progress and this and the improvements in the Arts and Crafts Room are scheduled to finish at the end of April. Regarding programs, Patty reported on Volunteer Recognition, Know Your City, Worcester Tornado, Positive Aging Symposium, Walking Club Kick-Off and the Summer Concert Series being planned. Finally, Patty praised the work of the AARP volunteer tax preparers who have finished their very busy season at the Senior Center.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.