

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of September 25, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Robin Bahr Casey; Meg Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Njeri Gichohi; Paul Johnson; Ngia Le; Elizabeth Nguyen; Richard Pinkes; Gail Schuyler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Warren EXCUSED: Sandra Bisson, Christopher Evans

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters; Suki Lapin; Linda Wincek-Moore; Ron Motta; Pauline Pinkes; Don Slaughter

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

The Commission minutes of June 26, 2017 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

The Senior Center Report of 9/12/17 was approved as mailed. m/s/a

Don Slaughter, an Encore Fellow for the past year, gave a presentation on his accomplishments at the Senior Center. He spoke about the safety and transportation issues and the changes he worked on pertaining to the senior center and its participants. He described current and future expanded transportation options, one of which has been implemented with free transportation to/from the Senior Center for WHA residents. This is a collaboration of the WRTA, WHA, Elder Affairs, Elder Services and AARP. There was discussion about the age friendly community movement. Don showed a slide show he developed of activities and people at the senior center which is now posted on Facebook and the website. He was thanked for all the work he has done in the past year.

Ron Motta reported on the activities of the Friends of Worcester Senior Center including their recent annual meeting.

Amy gave the Director's report highlighting progress towards goals and objectives since June such as: FY 18 city funding received a slight increase and the state formula grant is expected to slightly decrease. The Prevention Wellness Trust Fund grant is ending Dec. 2017. Falls prevention work will continue utilizing other resources. CMAA continues to fund the Osteoporosis Prevention Project. Elder Affairs worked with Elder Services to receive a 2nd year grant from the Mass. Assoc. of Councils on Aging for the Memory Café. The State Dept. of Transitional Assistance has awarded a new grant to help enroll people in SNAP. The City's Youth Office has moved to the 3rd floor and a grant has been written for an intergenerational event for Martin Luther King Day event. 300 Farmers Market Coupons were distributed at the center this summer. A leaf raking program for seniors is being developed and it should work like the snow shoveling program. Elder Affairs is working with the Assessor's Office to develop a pilot project for a property tax work off program. Amy reported briefly on grounds and building issues and various collaborations for programs and services, noting that there is one office on the 3rd floor that's available to be rented out. Tours of the old building continue to be given to potential developers. The Senior Center is now a site for monthly Neighborhood Crime Watch meetings.

Suki reported on the successful Know Your City series and Joe Fish fitness classes. Linda reported on the Evidence Based Programs. She noted that Mariana O'Brien, the new part-time Latino Elder Coordinator, started work today and a new part-time Chinese Elder Group Coordinator, will be starting in October. Linda reported that she is again the preceptor for the UMass Medical Clerkship focusing on fall prevention this autumn.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m. (m/s/a)