

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of May 20, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair; Meg Coffin; Paul Franco; Paul Johnson; Fran Langille; Mariana O'Brien; Richard Pinkes; Cathy Rao; Richard Shea; Caroline Sullivan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nghia Le EXCUSED-Nancy Greenberg; Elizabeth Nguyen; Chizoma Nosike

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Waters, Linda Wincek-Moore, Ms. Smith and Mike Cahill-Central Mass Housing Alliance

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Robin.

Mike Cahill from Central Mass Housing Alliance Elder Home Maintenance Program reported on their activities for the past year and answered questions from members. They continue to assist Worcester homeowners age 60 remain in their home by accomplishing essential chores and repairs. They also install equipment to prevent falls.

The Commission minutes of April 22, 2019 were approved with the change of noting Paul Franco was excused from that meeting m/s/a

The Senior Center Committee Report to the Commission of 5/14/19 was approved as distributed m/s/a

In Patty's absence, Amy gave the Goals and Objectives report in addition to the senior center operations report including the following: The FY 2020 budget includes funding for a full time principal clerk. The City Manager recommended a 13% increase as well as \$3,000 for the computer lab upgrade. The State budget has not been set yet, but it is expected that the Formula Grant will be \$12.00 per person over age 60. The Friends President has confirmed that they will donate \$15,000 in fiscal year 2020. The Walking Club has been successful and a trip to Elm Park has been scheduled for June. June 25th is the Dementia Friendly kick-off event and Alan Fletcher will be the Distinguished Speak on June 26th. Architects are making plans for the parking lot rehab. WRTA held a public hearing at the senior center and Amy reported on a positive meeting with the WRTA's new Administrator. The WHA Block Grant application has been renewed and for the 3rd year in a row they have surpassed their goals for transporting seniors to and from the Senior Center. A celebratory lunch is being planned for the people who work behind the scenes on this project. There are 30 different plots in the community gardens, some for neighborhood people and some for participants. Staff has been recertified in AED and hands only CPR. Staff will be attending the annual Alzheimer's Map thru the Maze conference. A pay equity survey has been completed by staff in response to the City's request. Work continues on lease renewals. A hazmat study was done of the old building and staff & co-locators have been advised not to make dust in the old building because it could contain asbestos. It is expected that the person who is creating the latest RFP for developers to renovate the vacant portion of the building will present before the Commission at its June meeting and if not June, then September. Discussions also continue with Elder Services and QCC to provide more culturally sensitive meals at the Senior Center.

Linda reported on outreach and program activities, including 2 upcoming health fairs. The Senior Support Team continues to work together for successful interventions to improve seniors' safety and quality of life.

Fran was thanked for her work on the Job Seeker Program. The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, June 24th. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.