

## COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

### Minutes of October 22, 2018

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Robin Bahr Casey; Meg Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Paul Franco; Nancy Greenberg; Paul Johnson; Fran Langille; Elizabeth Nguyen; Richard Pinkes; Cathy Rao; Richard Shea; Caroline Sullivan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chizoma Nosike; Nghia Le

**STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:** Amy Vogel Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Lindita Taka

The meeting was called to order by Theresa at 4:00 p.m. The Commission minutes of Sept. 24, 2018 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

Meg Coffin reported on the Center for Living and Working which promotes maximum independence for their consumers living with disabilities by serving as one of ten independent living centers in the state. Services include information and referral, skills training, peer counseling, advocacy and transition services. During the discussion, Meg answered members' questions.

Amy gave the Director's Report updating the goals and objectives. The following was reported and discussed: The City budget is stable and the state will be awarding the higher formula grant of \$12.00 per elder; Country Bank and Worcester Area Geriatric Social Workers have made donations to the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center; Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be offering 3 free exercise programs at the center starting in Nov.; At the November Commission meeting, the video created by the Mass Assoc. of Councils on Aging concerning Worcester's Vietnamese Elder Group will be presented; Seniors Helping Seniors is ending their operations, but Griswold Home Care will be taking over and continuing to lease space at the senior center; A tour of the building was given including the City Manager concerning the renovation of the building to expand services; Parking lot renovation will be done in the spring; and, Work continues on the Request for Proposals for the unused portion of the building.

Highlights of Patty's report included: the annual multi-cultural pot luck lunch was a success; The center is a site for early voting 4 times before Election Day; The Respite Day Program sponsored by AARP is going well; There are many students from various colleges assisting with different programs at the center; and in addition to the new classes from Blue Cross, a Silver Sneakers class will also be starting soon.

Lindita reported on the SHINE health insurance outreach and appointments and evidence based programs.

Fran Langille reported on the AARP/MCOA sponsored Job Seekers program.

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, Nov. 26, 2018. Theresa and Tom were thanked for their decades of service on the Commission on Elder Affairs which comes to an end this month. Theresa announced that the City Manager appointed Robin Bahr Casey as the new Chair of the Commission. The meeting adjourned (m/s/a).