

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of February 25, 2019

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nancy Greenberg; Nghia Le; Elizabeth Nguyen.

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek Moore; Julia Schroeder, Dementia Friendly Worcester Project/Clark University student

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of January 28, 2019 were approved as distributed. m/s/a

The next meeting of the Commission will be March 25th at 4:00 p.m.

Linda reported on Senior Services programs and outreach activities with the Worcester Housing Authority, a health fair at the Senior Center on April 10th and the plan for "Walk in the Park."

Julia Schroeder, Dementia Friendly Worcester Project/Clark University student was introduced and spoke about the project currently underway. It will raise awareness, provide education and hopefully improve the lives of people living with dementia. There was much discussion and members had their questions answered by Julia, staff and Commissioners with expertise in the subject. Members were asked to consider joining the project's Action Team.

Amy reviewed the goals and objectives report and highlights in which she noted that the initial meeting with the City Budget office included ways of addressing/increasing security, fitness center operations, full-time receptionist, senior Walks in the Parks and marketing.

- A motion was made to send the attached letter concerning the state Council on Aging line item for FY 2020. m/s/a

Amy also reported: the Friends received a \$1000 donation from Tufts Health Plan for the very enjoyable Chinese Lunar New Year event; Jenny was thanked for leading the Walking Club last year and evaluating it; Presenters for the next few Commission meetings will be representatives of programs funded by the Commission; Mariana was thanked for attending the recently held meeting with various city administrators regarding renovation and development at the Senior Center; The Anderson Building (small building on Winthrop St.) will be demolished although the timeline has not been established.; June 5th at 3:30 pm has been scheduled for the groundbreaking event for the parking lot and fitness center; Amy was interviewed along with the coordinator of the Job Seeker Program for the Soapbox show on WCCA TV Channel 194, and Channel 3 TV news covered recent events at the Senior Center including Valentine's Day and the Chinese New Year Celebration.

Patty reported on the various programming including the upcoming St. Patrick's Day event. She also provided an update on the facilities, grounds and security. She noted that the City of Worcester is holding a Volunteer Recognition on 4/9, and Commission members were encouraged to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.