

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of April 22, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair; Meg Coffin; Nancy Greenberg; Fran Langille; Elizabeth Nguyen; Chizoma Nosike; Cathy Rao; Richard Shea; Caroline Sullivan;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nghia Le; Mariana O'Brien; Paul Franco, Paul Johnson & Richard Pinkes, Excused

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters; Linda Wincek-Moore; Rosemarie Highlands, St. Paul's Elder Outreach Program.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Rosemarie Highlands was introduced as Director, and informed members of what the St. Paul's Elder Outreach Program is, current trends and accomplishments. For many years, this program has served as the "outreach arm" for our senior services staff. Rosemarie also answered questions from members.

Minutes of March 25, 2019 were approved as distributed. m/s/a

The Senior Center Committee Report of April 9, 2019 was approved as distributed. m/s/a

Amy reported on and the Commission discussed the following: planning continues for FY 2020 city & state funding; The Retired Men's Club of Greendale donated \$250 to the Friends of Worcester Senior Center ; AARP Tax Aide volunteers assisted 589 people this year while handling their own appointment scheduling; The Dementia Friendly Action Team continues to meet; The Health & Safety Fair was very successful; At next month's Commission meeting the Elder Home Maintenance Program will present information about their program; Members were reminded of the Volunteer Recognition 4/24 at the senior center; There is an available seat on the Commission and members were asked to encourage others to apply; Some staff members have been re-certified in CPR and use of the defibrillator; Newly revised and printed Senior Center Guidebooks were distributed to members; There are no empty offices in the building to be rented out and some tenants' leases are currently being negotiated and renewed; A groundbreaking event will be Wed. June 5th at 3:30 to celebrate the parking lot and building renovations to take place; Planning continues for the proposed fitness center; there was a successful inter-generational event with the Red Sox organization and Union Hill School students; Elder Services is now providing Latino style meals on wheels; and QCC is working with Elder Services on the possibility of providing more multi-cultural meals at the senior center.

In Patty's absence, Linda reported on programs held at the center and also upcoming programs including: Around 200 people attended the Health & Safety Fair; There will be a Walk Around the Park (Elm Park) for seniors in June; May is Older Americans Month, the Walking Club kick off will be May 2nd and fitness vouchers will be available to all participants for a discount off various exercise classes during May; Earth Day clean up around the center will be held Thurs. 4/25 and members were encouraged to attend; and, The Regional Environmental Council Mobile Market will be returning on June 20th. Linda also gave a brief update on the grounds and building issues, as well as outreach efforts of staff. Amy answered members' questions on the Anderson Building and the old section of the center.

Members were reminded that the next meeting will be Mon. May 20th (the 3rd Mon. instead of the 4th) due to the Memorial Day Holiday. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.