

COMMISSISON ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of February 26, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Robin Bahr Casey; Meg Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Nancy Greenberg; Paul Johnson; Elizabeth Nguyen; Dick Pinkes; Caroline Sullivan

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Chris Evans; Nghia Le; Dick Shea

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek Moore, Rosemarie Highlands and Mavoreen Roberts from St. Paul's Elder Outreach; Joanie Smiley-visitor

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Members were encouraged to attend the press conference with the Lt. Governor on Tues Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. to announce the \$1.5 million MassWorks grant, which includes fixing the senior center parking lot.

The minutes of Jan. 22, 2018 were approved as distributed. m/s/a

The Feb. 13, 2018 Senior Center Committee Report to the Commission was approved as distributed. m/s/a

Rosemarie Highlands and Mavoreen Roberts from St. Paul's Elder Outreach were introduced and discussed their program. They function as the "outreach arm" of the Division of Elder Affairs and the Senior Support Team. There was much discussion on mental health and housing issues, and their collaboration with other agencies.

Amy gave the Director's Report updating members on the goals and objectives, including: The State Service Incentive Grant of \$9,700 was awarded for FY 2018 and permission was granted to use it to increase the St. Paul's contract, hold various workshops as well as the "No Evil Project" at the Senior Center; The initial Budget meeting planning for FY 2019 was held today and a request for a new Customer Service Representative/Receptionist is being considered; The letter to the Legislators about the State Grant will be signed and sent by the City Manager; Wei Shi has been hired as the Chinese Elder Group Coordinator; and items of the senior center in the news were highlighted.

Patty reported on programs held and upcoming, as well as building services, including an REC grant to expand community gardens. She announced that the Volunteer Recognition Event will be held April 25th and all members were invited to attend.

Linda reported on Outreach and Advocacy efforts: The Health Fair at the Senior Center will be held on April 11th from 9:00 – 11:30 with a sponsored lunch and a caregiver panel in the afternoon; two interns from QCC have an active role in putting on the Health Fair; Matter of Balance in Spanish will be starting in March; staff has been trained and approved to fill out fuel assistance applications; and staff is working with the WRTA on how to best make the transition to automated payments as the WRTA won't be accepting cash in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm. m/s/a