

Commission on Elder Affairs

Minutes of June 24, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr-Casey, Chair; Theresa Eckstrom; Chris Evans; Steven Smajkiewicz

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Tom Cullinane; Steve Greenberg; Ursula Hanas; Gail Smith; Elaine Wrubel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carolyn Grenier; Jocelyn Jacques Curewitz; Nick Kalstas

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek Moore, Dave Johnson-Friends of Worcester’s Senior Center; Rosemarie Highlands- St. Paul’s Elder Outreach

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. There was no quorum, so the April 22 and May 27th Commission meeting minutes were not approved. The Senior Center Committee reports were also not approved. Amy reviewed the budget allocation process for FY 14 as discussed at the June 11, 2013 Senior Center Committee meeting and noted below. Members did not recommend any changes.

Amy reported the following: The FY’14 tax levy budget for Elder Affairs was approved by the City Council as recommended by the City Manager, and includes an additional \$10,000 for programs; The State legislature is considering increasing the COA budget line item; Friends of Worcester’s Senior Center, Inc. has pledge \$25,000 for FY’14 as well as permitting the carryover of unused transportation funds; the Greater Worcester Community Foundation did not fund the Senior Support Team this year; and there may be increased costs passed on by the Scoop newsletter publisher. The Committee discussed the available resources and reviewed the needs and wishes for additional funds to operate Senior Center programs, as well as contracted elder service programs, per their requests. This included a review of transportation expenditures and projections for FY’14. The Committee developed and recommended initial allocations with the potential of increases once the full amount of FY’14 funding has been confirmed. **Contingent upon the minimum availability of \$109,959 city tax levy (budget approved for programs) + \$22,210 COA (\$7/elder rate avail for programs) + \$12,000 Friends (transportation carryover), + \$700 Fallon/ OrNda (rec’d Healthy Aging grant) for a total of \$144,869, the initial recommended allocations were approved as follows (m/s/a):**

Program	Total Initial FY’14 Recommended Allocation	Amt. Added to FY’13 level (included in total)	Purpose for increase	Sources of Elder Affairs Funds
African American Elder Program	3,240	920	Restoration of 46 paid coordinator hours bringing compensation to 3 hrs/wk.	3,240 tax levy
Elder Home Maintenance	14,438	4,002	Preservation of 216 home maintenance hours needed due to federal funding cut.	14,438 tax levy
Elder Outreach-St. Paul’s/Senior	59,512 (including funds formerly	3,640	Elevation of workers’ hourly	8,000 COA 51,512 tax levy

Support Team	covered by GWCF)		wage currently 14-16.50/hr. per Director's discretion.	
Latino Elder Program	10,500	1,700	Transportation assistance for elders via Centro Las Americas.	9,800 tax levy 700 Fallon/Ornda (n.b. forgot to figure in at committee meeting-avw)
Transportation	32,000	(23,700 less than ESWA van service)	ADA, fixed route bus, & Safeway transportation to/from Sr Cr.	20,000 tax levy 12,000 Friends
Vietnamese/Chinese Elder Programs	3,000	3,000	Average of 2hrs/wk Chinese and Vietnamese Interpretation for human service needs.	3,000 tax levy
Computer Lab	3,825	3,825	Average of \$10.50/hr subsidies for 364 individual and group classes.	3,825 tax levy
Contingency	18,354	n/a		4,144 tax levy 14,210 coa
Totals	144,869	17,087		144,869 (109,959 tax levy; 22,210 COA; 700 Fallon/OrNda)

Robin noted that the State Association of Councils on Aging is partnering with the Alzheimer's Association Charity Campaign to raise \$150 at each Council on Aging by selling Forget-Me-Nots and/or walk in the Sept. 29th fund raiser. Members discussed having a bake sale.

Amy reviewed the strategic plan goals & objectives including: The Budget document submitted to City Council and passed was distributed in the folder for members to review; The Greater Worcester Foundation did not fund the Senior Support Team for FY 14, although they did fund the Healthy Aging program; The Friends of Worcester's Senior Center Board pledged support of \$25,000 and unspent FY 13 transportation funds will be carried over into FY 14; Working with the publishers of the Senior Scoop who have proposed doubling the amount of what the Friends and the Senior Center is expected to pay (an increase of approx. \$4,000); Tatnuck Park named the Worcester Senior Center, a senior center of the month; Transportation continues to be a challenge but the shift to providing tickets has been

facilitated greatly by Linda and Yung; State funds have been used to subsidize transportation to the center and a part-time transportation monitor has been hired who is working out well; the new City Energy & Asset Management department was announced; Vandalism has occurred and has been reported to the WPD including some broken windows in the vacant wing and the outdoor shed was broken into, although nothing was stolen.

Amy continued to report: the interview process has started for the Senior Services Program Assistant opening; Mass Senior Action Council will not be renewing their lease at the senior center due to lack of funding and a current tenant, Work Opportunities Unlimited, will be expanding their lease; the Meditation Association will be renewing their lease; plans for Verizon putting a cell tower on the roof of the senior center, and discussion about the building in general have continued; and the Regional Research Bureau has expressed a view of the senior center which recognizes it as part of the City's commitment to improve residents' quality of life.

Patty reported on the successful grant funded 2 person play, the electronic petting zoo, the upcoming painting classes, the Farmers Market and coupons, the Summer Concert Series, and student interns for the summer from Worcester Tech High School and Bruce Wells Upward Bound.

Linda reported on outreach activities, the Senior Support Team which now includes DPH representation, the Keep Moving Walk at Carson Beach, a vendor fair for case managers and she provided an update on the evidence based programs.

Rosemarie Highlands reported on the Elder Outreach Program at St. Paul's Outreach and their visits to the new St. John's Soup Kitchen.

Dave Johnson from the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center Board reported on the Greenwood Street Free Medical Clinic where he promotes the senior center. He reported that a Friends fundraising Kick Off will be held on July 9th and that bingo is going well.

The July 22nd meeting will be held only if there is a need. Members will be notified accordingly.

The meeting adjourned.