

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of March 23, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair; Sandra Bisson; Meg Coffin; Theresa Eckstrom; Chris Evans; Paul Johnson; Elizabeth Nguyen; Gail Schuyler; Steve Smajkiewicz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Cullinane; Ursula Hanus; Matthew Fonseca; Victor Ortiz; Gail Smith; Elaine Wrubel

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Lisa Brennan, Ascentria Community Care; Darlene Hayden, Work Opportunities Unlimited; Amy Vogel Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek Moore

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. The minutes of February 23, 2015 were approved as mailed. m/s/a The Senior Center Committee Report of March 10, 2015 was approved as mailed. m/s/a

Darlene Hayden from Work Opportunities reported on the Senior Work Search for Program, a six-week program which helps seniors learn how to re-enter the workforce with confidence and updated knowledge as well as tools. She responded to questions and comments from Commission members.

Lisa Brennan reported on the Refugee Resettlement Program at Ascentria Community Services and the groups coordinated at the Senior Center for Iraqi and Bhutanese seniors. She responded to questions and comments from Commission members and noted that they have applied for transportation funding from the state.

Amy updated members on the status of the goals and objectives. Planning for the FY 16 budget has begun. Level funding has been recommended by both the City Administration and the Governor, except that the City-wide cost of living increases have been factored in. Progress is being made on the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund and a letter of intent has been submitted to CMAA for the osteoporosis prevention program. Program self-evaluations have been sent to Commission funded programs and will be reviewed at an upcoming Senior Center Committee when allocating funds. Staff is attending professional development trainings using state Council on Aging funding. The annual senior center survey is being conducted and there have been 166 replies to date. Information about registered participants by zip code was distributed and discussed. The lease for Work Opportunities is in the process of being renewed for another year.

Patty reported on the work being done to the building and offices using the CDBG funds. The Eagle Scout project securing an outdoor table and chairs is almost completed. Tufts will be sponsoring the landscaper at the senior center for the 5th year. She also reported on programs held recently and upcoming events. The ARRP tax preparation program has been very busy this season and their last day will be April 3rd. The Senior Center Volunteer Recognition will be held on April 15th and all Commission members were encouraged to sign up for the event, as well as the City Council recognition event for volunteers being held April 14th.

Linda reported on the progress of the Matter of Balance Master Training she is conducting which is funded with the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund. The Healthy Eating class will start in April. Staff will be attending the Mass College of Pharmacy health fair in April and there also a health fair at the Manor Restaurant in May. The Iraqi and Bhutanese Elder Groups continue to evolve and grow.

The next meeting was confirmed for April 27, 2015. The meeting adjourned.