

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of April 27, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair; Theresa Ekstrom; Chris Evans; Paul Johnson; Elizabeth Nguyen; Victor Ortiz; Gail Schuyler; Steven Smajkiewicz

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Sandra Bisson; Meg Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Matthew Fonseca; Ursula Hanus; Gail Smith; Elaine Wrubel

STAFF PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek Moore

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm. The minutes of March 23, 2015 were approved as mailed. m/s/a The Senior Center Committee Report of April 14, 2015 was approved as mailed. m/s/a Prior to the meeting members were videotaped individually by the City for Commission recruitment purposes.

Any highlighted items on the goals and objectives update: FY 16 tax levy looks like it will be level funded and she will inform members when the City Council budget hearing will be held in May. State Formula Grant funding for FY 16 will probably be either level funded or increased by approx. \$29,000. CDBG is paying for all the recent renovations to the senior center – roof repair, new carpet, painting and windows. There are plans to spend the Binienda funds on new lobby furniture and other improvements. The Prevention Wellness Trust Fund contract has been finalized and a part time employee will be hired as part of the contract. A grant is being written to the Central Mass Agency on Aging to continue funding the osteoporosis prevention program. Greater Worcester Community Foundation has awarded \$5,000 for Evidence Based Programs at the Senior Center. The Greendale Retired Men's Club has donated \$250 to the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center. There were 494 clients who got their tax returns done by AARP at the senior center, an increase of 13% over last year. Agency contracts are submitting their program evaluations for FY 15. A Senior Aide is still being sought for the afternoon shift at the front desk. Members who haven't submitted their Conflict of Interest documents to Amy need to do so. The Volunteer Recognition was a lovely event and Commission volunteers were given the recognition gift. There is a new developer interested in re-using the 1926 building. There are 136 "likes" on Facebook so far and Amy was interviewed for an article about the rising senior population.

Paul asked about planning in case funds do not come in as expected. Amy and Robin responded that the Senior Center Committee plans for different funding scenarios to prepare for different contingencies. Victor informed the Commission of a new Public Health Trust Fund which will become available for grants to work on issues related to problem gambling.

Patty reported on the successful Volunteer Recognition, a possible collaboration with Broad Meadow Brook, Earth Day cleanup with volunteers from Tufts, and the renovations to all three floors of the senior center. Robin suggested that a grounds cleanup be done in the fall also. Loam will be delivered for the community gardens soon. The Walking Club Kick Off will be on May 7th with Family Health Center present to demonstrate stretches before walking. Popular programs for May are the Mother's Day Program and Fitness Vouchers for participants to use in various exercise classes.

Linda spoke about Rebuilding Worcester Together which provided renovations to homes owned by two Senior Center participants. She also reported on the Stand Against Racism event, upcoming Evidence Based Programs, as well as other outreach activities.

Members were reminded that there is no Commission meeting in May due to Memorial Day, so the next scheduled meeting will be Mon., June 22nd at 4:00 pm.

