

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of November 23, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Meg Coffin; Chris Evans; Matthew Fonseca; Ursula Hanus; Paul Johnson; Elizabeth Nguyen; Victor Ortiz; Gail Schuyler; Elaine Wrubel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Bisson; Tom Cullinane

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek-Moore; Lauren St. Pierre, intern; Ron Motta, President Friends of Worcester Senior Center; Dr. Mattie Castile, HHS Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Castile introduced herself and spoke about her role in the City. She responded to questions about the needle exchange program and opioids, including how these issues relate to seniors.

The minutes of Oct. 26, 2015 were approved as mailed. m/s/a The Senior Center Committee Report of 11/10/15 was approved as mailed. m/s/a

Amy thanked Dr. Castile for her support and reviewed the update on the goals and objectives, including: Sufficient funding has been maintained via FY 16 grant awards; the Falls Prevention calendar was distributed; Unsolicited donations were received from United Healthcare and a family of a veteran via Friends, Inc. ; Goals have been reached for home assessments for the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund; Yung Phan received an award from Centro for her work with the Vietnamese Community in Worcester; Seniors Helping Seniors has moved to its larger office; The Family Services lease has been recommended for renewal; Senior Whole Health will be moving out of their small office on January 1st and the Alzheimer's Association will also be moving out; The fitness challenge videos for Facebook have been completed and will be featured once a month starting in January; There was good media coverage of the Veterans Day program and an upcoming self-defense course for women & girls at the Senior Center.

Patty reported on past programs and the upcoming Thanksgiving Dinner, craft fair and holiday decorating. She noted the Holiday Party will be on Dec 9th and entertainment will be provided by senior center participants. Also, Dec. 11th will be the lobby re-dedication honoring John Binienda. She reported that building, HVAC, outdoor lighting and security system issues continue to be worked on.

Linda reported the UMass Medical School Clerkship and Worc. State University Nursing Student internships are over for the year. She also reported on advocacy and outreach for the past month and noted that the Health Fair at the Senior Center was very well attended and Medicare open enrollment has been keeping the SHINE workers busy in November.

There was discussion on whether personal physicians were notified when flu shots were given and the answers were variable. Lauren reported she's working on a series where seniors can learn about the legislative process. Ron reported that when he was elected President of the Friends this fall, the Executive Board also changed. He is encouraging Board members to be fund raisers and has created working committees.

The December 28th meeting was cancelled. The next scheduled meeting will be on Mon., Jan 25, 2016. The meeting adjourned.