

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of Oct. 23, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Tom Cullinane; Njeri Gichohi; Paul Johnson; Nghia Le; Elizabeth Nguyen; Richard Pinkes; Gail Schuyler;

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Robin Bahr Casey; Sandra Bisson; Meg Coffin; Chris Evans

STAFF GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek-Moore; Ron Motta-Friends of Worcester Senior Center; Alexis Travis-Chief of Community Health, Worc. Div. of Public Health

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. It was announced that Mary Warren has submitted her resignation to the Commission due to her work time constraints. Also, Njeri was thanked for her service as she will not be reappointed due to her time constraints. Members were encouraged to submit names for new members. It was noted that people can only serve on one city commission or board at a time.

Alexis Travis discussed Worcester's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and spoke about the priority areas of Health Equity, Substance Use, Access to Care, Mental Health, Economic Opportunity, Cultural Responsiveness; Access to Healthy Food, Physical Activity, Safety, and Racism and discrimination. She also answered questions from Commission members

The Commission minutes of Sept. 25, 2017 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

The Senior Center Committee Report of Oct. 10, 2017 was approved as mailed. m/s/a

Amy highlighted the Oct 2017 staff report – city funding is stable and the state funding formula grant will be reduced by 3% or \$8,757. This reduction had been planned for in the FY 18 budget. The leaf raking assistance program has been organized & implemented. The final Falls Prevention PWTF statistics were briefly reviewed. Switching ownership of the senior center parking lot is in process. The Elder Latino Group Coordinator has been hired. The third floor vacancies have been filled.

Patty reported on the Oct. Know Your City Series with the Election Commission which was very informative. Over 100 people have attended various flu clinics at the senior center. The multi-cultural pot luck is Oct. 27th, elementary school children will parade thru the senior center on Halloween. Lots of students from high school to college level are volunteering/interning at the center this fall. The older elevator has been fixed and renovations have been made to the old clinic area to make more offices.

Linda reported on the SHINE appointments since it's Open Enrollment until mid-November, her work with the medical students' Clerkship, & presenting at the MCOA conference on falls prevention. Work continues with WHA bringing seniors to the senior center. Members questions were answered on falls prevention and the QCC take home meals. Pat Hutchinson from QCC will be the speaker/presenter at the next Commission meeting. There was discussion on the various exercise classes at the senior center.

Ron Motta reported on the activities of the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center. They are working with the Scoop publisher to get the Scoop to every citizen of Worcester age 60 and older. The Friends will be hosting a Candidates Forum at the Center on Oct. 25.

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, Nov. 27. The meeting adjourned.