

Commission on Elder Affairs-Senior Center Committee September 10, 2013 Minutes

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Elaine Wrubel; Tom Cullinane; Steve Greenberg; Nick Kalstas; Amy Waters-staff; Patty Hainsworth-staff; Song Jin Yang-intern; Edward Robinson-Human Rights Commission Chair.

Absent: No one

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm at 128 Providence Street. The 8/14/13 minutes were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, 10/8/13 at 4 p.m. Guests introduced themselves including: Song Jin Yang an intern from the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work and Edward Robinson, the Chair of the City's Human Rights Commission.

Finances: Amy reported that there were no changes in funding and that staff continue to work with the Division of Asset and Energy Management regarding ordering and covering the costs of facility related needs. She also noted that she is working with the City DPH to apply for a grant from the MA Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund. Regarding program allocations, Amy reported that everything they voted on has been implemented except that staff is in the last stages of hiring temporary clerical assistance via the state COA grant. Amy thanked the committee for their guidance re: negotiating the lease with Active Physical Therapy and Wellness which is in the process of finalization. She reported that a local organization expressed some interest in developing the 26 wing, and she referred them to the City's Economic Development department. Tom reported on an informal, positive discussion he had with a colleague regarding the parking lot. Amy stated she will continue to follow up development and ownership issues with the City administration.

Operations: Staffing has been strained over the summer due to vacations and openings, however Amy noted that we are in the final stages of hiring a new Senior Services Staff Assistant as well as temporary part-time receptionists. Amy reported that the City went out to bid for cleaning services which may increase our current assistance. Repairs have been needed for the dishwasher, garbage disposal, security alarm, hvac and to accommodate the impending new tenant. Security equipment has been enhanced with the assistance of the new Division.

The Senior Center Committee voted to recommend that the Commission on Elder Affairs co-sponsor the premiere of the Disability Etiquette video produced by the Commission on Disabilities, although they would prefer to see the video at the upcoming Commission meeting first (m/s/a). Amy reported that she obtained advice from the Human Rights Director regarding an issue with a Friends' trip participant. Patty reported on many excellent programs including: Celtic Knots, various evidence-based programs, educational forum to be presented by Elder and Disability Law, Johnny Appleseed Event, UMass Health Fair, Multicultural Pot Luck; Medication Take Back Day and a Flu Clinic being planned. She noted that 2 students from Doherty High School and 2 from the Mass College of Pharmacy will be starting here soon. Patty also reported on the new kiosk and container system for safe needle disposal.

Nick requested assistance to arrange for a radio show to be broadcast during the medication take-back event. Robin requested that an additional Zumba class be established when possible. Patty will be following up on both requests. The meeting adjourned.