

Senior Center Committee Meeting Feb 13, 2018

Present: Theresa Eckstrom-Chair, Tom Cullinane, Chris Evans, Robin Bahr-Casey, Paul Johnson, Patty Hainsworth, & Amy Waters.

Theresa called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. The minutes of 1/9/18 were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for 3/13/18 at 4 p.m.

Finances Amy reported on and the Committee discussed the following: The FY'19 City tax levy budget request has begun and a request for a full-time Customer Service Representative has been submitted to lessen our dependence on the federal Senior Aide program; The State unexpectedly awarded \$9,700 for the third year of our Senior Support Team Service Incentive Grant which was not eliminated from the State budget as had been thought; Ideas were discussed regarding the spending of this grant including but not limited to a restoration of some funds that had been reduced for the St. Paul's elder outreach contract; It was also noted that the Governor's proposed FY'19 budget includes a substantial increase for Councils on Aging; a draft letter to the legislature (attached) about the COA line item was reviewed and approved for general content, recognizing that the City Manager may make revisions before it is sent; it was also recommended that the Governor be thanked for his recommended funding for COA's; leases are status quo; a draft report to address questions by the City Council to the City Manager was reviewed and it was recommended that Amy request that staffing be increased to provide additional services and hours of operations in the coming years.

Operations Patty reported on and the Committee discussed the following: Both the Black History event and the Children's Author program went well and were very interesting; upcoming programs include the continuation of the Distinguished Speakers series, tomorrow's valentines event, physician's talk on marijuana, physician's talk on tai chi/heart disease prevention, 1950's movie series, St. Patrick's Day, and in April there will be a Health and Safety Fair; The main facility issue has been managing the snow and ice; The Regional Environmental Council received funding to enhance community gardening at the Senior Center this spring.

The committee also began a discussion on elder housing and homelessness which will be explored further.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm (m/s/a).