

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of Monday, January 27, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair; Meg Coffin; Thom Cullinane; Theresa Eckstrom; Chris Evans; Steve Greenberg; Ursula Hanus; Paul Johnson; Nick Kaltsas; Victor Ortiz; Gail Schuyler; Steve Smajkiewicz;

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Carolyn Grenier, Gail Smith, Elaine Wrubel

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters; Linda Wincek-Moore; Patty Hainsworth; Song Jin Yong, Intern; Ron Motta, Friends of Worcester's Senior Center

Robin reminded Commission members about the "Conflict of Interest Law Summary they received and that they needed to sign the receipt on the last page and return it to Amy Waters.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of November 25, 2014 were approved as mailed. m/s/a unanimous

The Senior Center Committee Report was approved as distributed and after discussion. m/s/a

Patty and Amy answered Paul's questions regarding "upscale programs" and "marketing" which were two of the items which were recommended for allocations.

Paul asked how services were evaluated and Amy clarified the following: The Senior Center Committee works with staff to review program evaluations, client satisfaction summaries and monthly report data for the funded services; Expenditures and impact are also monitored by the City Council and the State; The Commission is given a copy of the report submitted to the City Council; The results of the annual senior center survey of participants will be available in a few months; and UMass/Lowell is currently doing a study of the impact of senior centers statewide and Worcester has been chosen to participate.

A discussion ensued regarding the utilization of cost effectiveness to evaluate funded programs. The Senior Center Committee will consider this at a future meeting.

Amy gave the Director's Report some of which included: the State requested proposals for Service Incentive Funding and a request has been made for falls prevention as well as for staff/Senior Support Team training; The annual capital request has been submitted to the City with the same items on it as before, as well as for a new multi-media system; The new City Manager will be visiting the Senior Center on Wed. 1/29; and a new Senior Aide started today, helping with custodial work.

Patty reported on programs including the very successful Italian Fest and Lunar New Year event. She noted that AARP tax preparations were starting and that the Senior Center is the 2nd largest site in the Worcester area. She also discussed the status of the building, repairs being made to the heat, the condensate pipe, and kitchen equipment as well as the annual thorough cleaning of the kitchen and the stripping and sealing of the 2nd and 3rd floor tiles.

Linda reported on outreach activities, including the evidence based programs she facilitates, as well as the limited one-time only fuel oil funds we have available. There are 2 new interns, one from Salem State is working with the blood pressure clinics and health related programs, and the other is from Worcester State Urban Studies and will be working on various programs including a Polish Festival.

Discussion ensued regarding fuel assistance and it was suggested that a study of how much oil was purchased in the past five years should be done to see if it could leverage a discount from the fuel company.

Ron Motta reported on the Friends' activities including Bingo which continues to generate income with 75-80 people regularly attending and enjoying themselves. He also talked about beginning a major donor solicitation process.

The next meeting date is Monday, Feb. 24th at 4:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned.