

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of March 28, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Tom Cullinane; Matthew Fonseca; Ursula Hanus; Paul Johnson; Richard Pinkes; Gail Schuyler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Bisson; Meg Coffin; Chris Evans; Elizabeth Nguyen; Elaine Wrubel

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Lindita Taka, Ron Motta-Friends of Worcester Senior Center, Roxanna Gomez & Odette Lopez-Centro, Darlene Hayden & Rose – Work Opportunities Unlimited.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Congratulations were given to Patty Hainsworth for receiving the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award.

Roxanna Gomez & Odette Lopez reported on the Latino Elder Program operated by Centro. It is held at the Worcester Senior Center on Monday's and at Centro on Wed and Fri., providing social opportunities as well as assistance with basic needs. They also answered questions from Commission members.

Darlene Hayden reported on the Work Opportunities Work Search programs to be held at the Senior Center this Spring. The program introduces elders to the current job market practices including online job searches and applications, etc. She also answered questions from Commission members.

Ron Motta updated members on the activities of the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center. A Friends membership breakfast will be held.

There being no quorum, the Commission minutes of Feb 22, 2016 were not approved. Amy reported that the Citizens Advisory Council has submitted two new people for consideration to be members. The Commission will still need more members to be at full complement.

Amy's report included the following highlights: The FY 2017 tax levy funding which she expects to, at minimum, be level funded. Elder Affairs has asked for 2 more full-time positions and transportation funds. The State's competitive Service Incentive Grant awarded Elder Affairs \$30,000 for 3 years, contingent upon availability of funds. Senator Chandler's Office has responded to the letter previously approved & sent to legislators. Congressman McGovern attended a small group meeting organized by our intern, Lauren. Bob Dwyer from CMAA and Lou Swan from Elder Service will present at the April Commission meeting and the Elder Protective Services Unit will present to the Commission in May. The Volunteer Recognition will be held at the Senior Center on April 20th and members were encouraged to sign up for this as well as the one being held at City Hall. New police recruits will be at the senior center all day tomorrow, working outside, serving lunch, and interacting with seniors during various programs. Amy introduced Lindita Taka who is filling in for Linda Wincek Moore today.

Patty reported on grounds and building issues and various programs. The Regional Environmental Council winter mobile market was a success this past season. The outdoor market starts in June. The "Meet & Greet" was also a success and drew a good crowd. Lindita reported on outreach activities, trainings and evidence based programs.

The meeting adjourned.