

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS  
Minutes of September 24, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair; Tom Cullinane; Theresa Eckstrom; Stephen Greenberg; Ursula Hanus; Jocelyn Jacques-Curewitz; Paul Johnson; Steven Smajkiewicz; Elaine Wrubel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nick Kaltsas; Gail Smith

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Christopher Evans; Carolyn Grenier; Victor Ortiz

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek-Moore; Song-Jin Yang-BC Social Work Intern; Ron Motta-Friends of Worcester Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. New member Paul Johnson was introduced. Another new member, Victor Ortiz, will be at the October meeting. The minutes of April 22, May 20 and June 24, 2013 were approved as mailed. m/s/a unanimous The Senior Center Committee Reports were approved as mailed. m/s/a unanimous

Commission members discussed cosponsoring a video debut with the Commission on Disabilities on Wed., Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 3:30 at the Senior Center. The video is about etiquette for non-disabled people who are interacting with disabled individuals. A motion was made to co-sponsor this video. m/s/a unanimous

Amy thanked the Senior Center Committee for continuing to meet over the summer. She gave the first quarter update on the goals and objectives for this fiscal year, starting with the financial situation. The Friends has pledged \$25,000 to the Senior Center for this fiscal year. The Friends annual meeting will be held Tues, 9/24. Two temporary, part-time receptionists have been hired for the front desk using state funds. The new Senior Services Program Assistant may be starting in mid-October. A lease has been executed for an office and exam room in the clinic space to Active Physical Therapy & Wellness. The open space will be shared between them and the senior center. The status of the 1926 building and the parking lot are still under consideration by the City administration. Amy also reported on various meetings she's attended during the quarter.

Patty reported on operations/programs and building service issues. The third year of the Tufts/Reliant grant for grounds work is ending and it is not yet clear if they will be renewing their support. Evidence Based programs have started this fall. Patty spoke about students who will be volunteering at the center. She described many programs, including a new dental care service, and especially invited Commission members to attend the Multi-cultural pot luck and exhibit on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. She announced that the Community Immunity Day (Flu Shots) at the Senior Center will be Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> and a Prescription Take Back Day will also be at the Senior Center Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>.

Linda reported on the Iraqi and Chinese Elder Groups activities as well as a travel training with the WRTA at the new Hub. She reported working with four Graduate Nursing Students from UMass who will be working with the Healthy Living Support Group and updating the Healthy Living Resource Library & display board. The SHINE program is busy with the new One Care Program and the open enrollment for Medicare. The Burncoat ROTC cadets will be helping seniors with leaf raking for community service hours this fall. Yung now has help on Thursday mornings via a Vietnamese speaking person who helps clients with reading their mail and other tasks, thanks to the funding allocation by the Commission. The Senior Support Team meets every other month and will be presenting at tomorrow's Fire Safety Conference for first responders and EMS in Westford. There was some discussion about the

activities of the African American Elder Group. Linda also reported that a Clark University student developed a Your Health is Golden manual for healthy living for the Vietnamese population and a series of classes was held which was successful. Another Clark University student is working on translating parts of the My Life My health book into Chinese so the Chinese Elder Group may participate in that series of classes. Amy noted that our Boston College intern will be spending part of his time working on diversity issues.

Ron reported on the activities of the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center including their focus on strong fundraising, changes with BINGO and their upcoming annual meeting.

The next meeting date was confirmed for October 28, 2013. The meeting adjourned.