

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of June 23, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Bahr Casey; Ursula Hanus; Paul Johnson; Gail Schuyler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Margaret Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Stephen Greenberg; Gail Smith; Elaine Wrubel;
ESCUSED: Theresa Eckstrom; Chris Evans; Carolyn Grenier; Nick Kaltsas; Victor Ortiz; Steve Smajkiewicz

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek Moore

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. There being no quorum, the Commission minutes of June 2, 2014 and the Senior Center Committee Report to the Commission of their 6/17/14 meeting were reviewed but not approved. Robin noted that the Senior Center Committee Report contained the FY'15 program allocations. Robin also announced that Carolyn Grenier has submitted her resignation from the Commission due to health reasons and circulated a card for all to sign. It was agreed that there would be no Commission meetings in July or August unless a special meeting was called at Amy's request.

Amy provided further information about the FY'15 allocations and highlighted items off the goals and objectives report, including: The City Council approved the FY 15 budget for Elder Affairs which includes an almost 11% increase in tax levy which reflects step raises for current staff and a new Administrative Assistant position to be the anchor for the ground floor and assist current staff; the state budget is still in conference committee; a grant proposal was submitted to Fallon Community Benefits for the Senior Support Team; Continued challenges with the DPH trust fund grant include a 15% reduction overall; 404 different programs were offered at the Senior Center this fiscal year; staff participated in various trainings and conferences; Seniors Helping Seniors is our newest tenant and is in the process of moving in July 1st; the City Administration is working to address the 26 wing and parking lot issues; the offer was extended per the Commission's recommendation, to hold a future City Opportunities Fair at the Senior Center.

Patty reported on programs and facility issues. The Community Garden has been planted and other grounds work continues; the new multi-media system has been installed in the lunchroom and works well; and the air conditioning problems are being addressed. She reported on many successful programs held during June and the Summer Concert series begins on 6/27. For the Memorial Day celebration there will be butterflies released in the garden to remember those who have passed. She also reported on new student volunteers and explained the Farmer's Market coupon program. Linda reported on the walking club trip to Newburyport, evidence based programs and the various trainings/conferences she and other staff attended.

The members agreed that the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center should be encouraged to send a representative to Commission meetings. The next Commission meeting will be scheduled for September.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.