

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of Feb. 27, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sandra Bisson; Robin Bahr Casey; Meg Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Christopher Evans; Njeri Gichohi; Ursula Hanus; Paul Johnson; Elizabeth Nguyen; Richard Pinkes; Gail Schuyler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Warren; Nghia Le; **Excused**, Theresa Eckstrom; Matt Fonseca

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Yung Phan, Saideh Mahdavisefat, intern; Roberto Diaz, Centro Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Tom Cullinane who was standing in for the Chair today. Introductions were made and members were reminded to complete the conflict of interest training and return the certificate to Amy, if they haven't already.

The minutes of Nov. 28, 2016 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

The Senior Center Committee reports of Jan. 10, Feb. 14 & Feb 24 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

A Senior Services presentation was made by Linda and Yung, talking about their Senior Services responsibilities: information & referral, advocacy & outreach, assistance with applications & access to resources, evidence based programs, multicultural and intergenerational programs. Commission members asked clarifying questions and commended them for their work.

Amy reviewed the status of the goals and objectives: The full FY'17 state COA grant funding is now transferred to the city account; The Retired Men's Club of Greendale was thanked for their donation to the Friends, Inc; An assistive technology center is being integrated into the computer lab; Quinsigamond Community College is expanding their offerings to include a congregate dinner one night a week as well as a weekly "take home meal; " A substance abuse conference will be held on May 23rd organized by the Elder Abuse Roundtable and partial funding will come from Elder Affairs; Elder Affairs staff was recognized for their teamwork, receiving the City's annual Eleanor Rik award; The participant satisfaction survey is available for those who wish to respond; Family Services and Quinsigamond Community College leases have been amended to switch one office; and she mentioned various publicity received cooperative efforts with other organizations.

Patty reported on: holiday events and various programs; the Know Your City series has been interesting and well attended; and concerning the physical building status, the renovations for the new clinic and arts and crafts room will begin in March.

Linda reported on outreach efforts for the month and Saideh reported on her activities for the month.

Elizabeth made some announcements including making successful referrals from the Vietnamese community to the Senior Center. There was discussion about marketing efforts and what could happen in the future.

The next meeting was confirmed for March 27, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned.