

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of June 26, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Sandra Bisson; Robin Bahr Casey; Meg Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Njeri Gichohi; Paul Johnson; Nghia Le; Richard Pinkes; Gail Schuyler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elizabeth Nguyen; Mary Boodie; EXCUSED- Christopher Evans

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Waters, Linda Wincek-Moore, Suki Lapin, Ron Motta – Friends of Worcester's Senior Center; Julie McMurray, Regional Manager of the Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. It was announced that Matt Fonseca and Ursula Hanus have resigned from the Commission due to their work schedules. If Members know any possible candidates, they can apply online or speak with Amy. Interviews for candidates for Boards and Commissions will be held Sept. 25.

The Commission minutes of May 22, 2017 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

The Senior Center Committee Report of June 13, 2017 was approved as mailed. m/s/a

Julie McMurray, Regional Director of the Alzheimer's Association, was introduced and spoke about dementia and her organization, as well as answering questions from the Commission members. The Association supports everyone impacted by dementia, provides education and contributes to research for a cure. The 24/7 helpline number is 1-800-272-3900.

Amy reviewed the June 2017 report on the goals and objectives including: The FY 2018 tax levy budget has been approved with a slight increase and many positive comments from City Councilors. The Senior Center is also being recommended for many capital items and Block Grant funding. The state budget is not finalized yet. The Memory Café has been awarded a 2nd year of funding (\$6,000) to Elder Services from MCOA. An application has been submitted to the Dept. of Transitional Assistance for up to \$5,000 to help seniors apply for SNAP benefits. The Falls portion of the Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund should be phased out by Dec. 2017. Amy spoke at the Friends of the Worcester Senior Center Annual Meeting. Patty is testifying at the Governor's Council on Aging. A meeting will be held tomorrow with the Worcester Housing Authority on transporting their tenants to the Senior Center. The 2nd floor clinic has been moved and renovated and the Arts & Crafts room has been renovated. A generator has been installed in the parking lot to take over when the electricity goes off. The Worcester Tree Initiative has planted 2 trees on the property. Students, volunteers & Senior Aides have been key to operating the Senior Center and the City Council has approved Dept. of Public Health funding for a nurse at the senior center 8 hours/week. Advertising will begin for a 4 hr/week Chinese Elder Group Coordinator and an 11 hr/week Latino Elder Coordinator. The city's Youth Offices (a part of Health and Human Services) have moved into two office on the 3rd floor. Fallon Health and Work Opportunities have terminated their leases. The Senior Center Committee approved a potential tenant. \$77,000 of rent has been generated by the senior center in FY 2017. The FY 2017 senior center accomplishments that were sent to the City Manager were distributed to members. Facebook visitors grow every month with 574 visitors since the site was established. Amy reported she will continue to serve on the Board of the Mass. Association of Councils on Aging and Patty is joining the Worcester Assistive Technology Board.

Suki reported on upcoming programs, including the Summer Concert Series and Know Your City events. Linda reported on outreach efforts, ongoing evidence based programs, and a travel training program held last week.

Ron Motta from the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center reported on their annual meeting and initiatives they have undertaken, including having a social media committee to increase their presence.

The Commission members agreed to not meet in July or August, unless necessary. The next meeting will be held Sept. 25, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned. m/s/a