

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Minutes of November 27, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Robin Bahr-Casey; Margaret Coffin; Nghia Le; Caroline Sullivan.

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Tom Cullinane, Paul Johnson, Christopher Evans, Elizabeth Nguyen, Richard Pinkes.

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Pat Hutchinson-QCC

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Theresa reported that Gail Schuyler resigned, due to her time constraints. Caroline Sullivan was welcomed as a new member. Another person will be appointed soon, but there are still openings. Amy encouraged members to reach out to interested people. Since there wasn't a quorum the Commission minutes of October 23, 2017 and the Senior Center Committee report of November 14, 2017 were not approved.

Pat Hutchinson, Program Coordinator of Quinsigamond Community College, discussed the college's role in the senior center via Bobby M's Diner and classroom learning. She explained how the Hospitality Management/food service programs at the senior center have evolved since opening in 2000. Members' questions were answered.

Amy gave the Directors Report, updating the goals and objectives, highlighting the following items: We are still waiting for the state contract for the FY 2018 COA formula funding. Elder Affairs' dependence on the Senior Employment Program for Senior Aides was brought to the attention of the City Manager by Amy. It was also reported that the city received \$1.5 million grant from MassWorks to renovate the parking lot and other items as soon as things are settled. Negotiations have been ongoing with the publisher of the Senior Scoop newsletter which has been produced to date at no cost to the city. The Friends pay to have it mailed to their members. A new distribution strategy has been developed and will start in January. The Prevention Wellness Trust Fund spending is completed. A part-time Senior Aide receptionist has left for a new position and the Transportation Monitor position is on hold. The Chinese Elder Group hiring process continues. The Dept. of Public Health is still in the process of hiring a public health nurse who will spend 8 hrs./week at the senior center. A "Lean Management" training for city workers was held at the senior center and is being put into use. There are no office vacancies on the third floor.

Patty reported on the last Know Your City event, Veterans Day program and the Thanksgiving/craft fair event, as well as other programs. The 2018 calendar is available for distribution. There have been no major problems with the facility this month.

Linda spoke about the Worcester Housing Authority collaboration which is bringing more seniors to the Center, the various fall prevention/evidence-based classes, and e-referral with Family Health Center.

Theresa spoke about a possible change in the process of becoming a patient in Senior Care Organizations for anyone dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The Legislators will discuss this in January.

Theresa announced that there will be no meeting in December. The next scheduled meeting will be Mon. January 22, 2018. The meeting adjourned.