

Commission on Elder Affairs
November 26, 2018 Minutes

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Cathy Rao, Chizoma Nosike, Mariana O'Brien, Meg Coffin, Paul Franco, Paul Johnson, Richard Pinkes.

Absent: Excused-Caroline Sullivan, Fran Langille, Nghia Le, Richard Shea; Elizabeth Nguyen, Nancy Greenberg.

Staff Present: Amy Waters, Linda Wincek-Moore, Suki Lapin, Yung Phan.

Others Present: Ron Motta-Friends President; Kathy Bowler-MCOA.

Robin called the meeting to order at 4 pm. She welcomed new Commission member, Mariana O'Brien and introductions were made. The minutes of the Oct. 22, 2018 meeting were approved. (m/s/a) Robin announced that due to the holidays, there will be no regular December meeting and that the next Commission meeting would be Monday January 28th.

Kathy Bowler of the MA Association of Councils on Aging, provided background about MCOA's making of the video about the Worcester Senior Center's Vietnamese Elder Group. She said it was created as part of their project, "Creating a Welcoming Place for All," designed to assist Councils/Senior Centers serve diverse populations in their communities. The video was shown and discussion ensued. Amy noted that besides being a teaching tool, this video preserves the legacy Yung Phan has created at the Senior Center, documents important history, as well as demonstrating how successful the Senior Center is at preventing social isolation by building community. Some ideas were discussed about how to utilize the video such as to educate government and human service providers as well as medical and gerontology students.

Amy reviewed the monthly report highlights of which included: working with Friends to apply for \$100,000 from Blue Cross Blue Shield MA to support the fitness center project; recognizing funders of the "Time to Care" respite program; 2019 capital request; designation of "Older Adults" as a priority population in the Community Health Assessment; zip code analysis of registered seniors; cyber-security training; diversity and lean management work; hazmat research on vacant portion of building; and various publicity and collaborative efforts.

Suki Lapin, Program Coordinator, filled in for Patty. She reported on upcoming programs such as social security, various holiday gatherings & concerts, the intergenerational Polar Express program and more.

Linda reported on transportation issues (automated fare for ADA; survey re: uber and lyft); assistance with leaf raking and snow; outreach planned for WHA, Senior Support Team gathering substance abuse data; success of UMASS Medical Clerkship at the Senior Center; and the busy SHINE schedule during open enrollment for health insurance.

Ron reported that there have been approximately 100 new members joining the Friends of Worcester's Senior Center this year and that the Friends is re-structuring volunteers to have an in-house team and an external fundraising team which will work on their "Wellness Win" project.
The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. (m/s/a)