

Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs
Senior Center Committee Meeting - November 8, 2016

Present: Theresa Eckstrom-Chair, Gail Schuyler, Tom Cullinane, Ursula Hanus, Chris Evans, Paul Johnson, Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Saiedeh Mahadavisefat-Intern.

Theresa called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. and welcomed fellow Commission member, Paul Johnson, who attended today's meeting. The members reviewed and approved the minutes of Sept. 13 and Oct. 11, 2016 (m/s/a). Theresa noted that we usually take a holiday break in December and will hold a meeting only if there is an emergency. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday January 10, 2017. Amy reminded members of the recent memo explaining conflict of interest and open meeting law issues, and noted that Theresa will recuse herself at the end of the meeting when issues related to her current employer will be discussed.

Finances: Amy reported and the Committee discussed the following: Yesterday the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs notified COA's that contracts will be executed with an increase to \$10/elder; the committee agreed that it remains prudent to wait until the spring to allocate the increase of \$29,000 which has been awarded by the state; Amy distributed copies of the information she submitted to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) hearing regarding the general status/needs of Worcester's seniors and the Senior Center; there was discussion on current CDBG projects at the Senior Center and a possible application for FY'18; Information was shared about the State Secretary of Elder Affairs' presentation at the Central MA Funders meeting and members expressed interest in inviting her to speak at a special event at the Senior Center; There was some discussion about our work with Ascentria on the Arabic Elder Program; Leases and development are status quo.

Operations: There have been no staffing changes this month, Amy reported. Patty reported and the committee discussed the following: The landscaper is completing the final seasonal clean-up; A tree vulnerable to the Asian Longhorn Beetle will be taken down by the DCR at no cost to the City; The boards on the 26 wing windows have been painted to improve the appearance; 2 new boilers have been installed and adjustments are being made; safety planning continues; As an early and regular voting site five times, thousands of people entered the Center while we worked to minimize disruption of programs; recent successful programs included the Diwali Festival and the African American Elder Group Coordinators Reception; The WSU Nursing Students have been a great help with blood pressures and other health issues; A series of educational veterans events is underway; Thanksgiving lunch is fully booked but others may attend the craft fair that day (Nov. 22nd); the travel ads in the Scoop were discussed; elder homelessness was identified as an issue needing further exploration.

Theresa recused herself and left the room while Amy updated the Committee on the contract with Centro for the Latino Elder Program and the implementation of a second program, Latino Elder Club 60+. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. (m/s/a)