

REPORT TO COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS  
Senior Center Committee Meeting June 14, 2016

Present: Theresa Eckstrom-Chair; Tom Cullinane; Ursula Hanus; Gail Schuyler; Chris Evans; Amy Waters; Patty Hainsworth.

Absent: N/A

Theresa called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes from May 10, 2016 were approved (m/s/a). It was decided that there will be no regular meetings during the summer unless an emergency meeting is called.

Finances

Amy provided updates and the Committee discussed the following: The City Council approved the FY'17 tax levy budget as recommended by the City Manager; A copy of the budget document was distributed to the Committee; The total tax levy allocation is \$497,988 which includes standard salary increases; The State COA budget is in conference committee with both House and Senate Ways & Means recommending a \$1/elder increase which would translate to a \$29,000 increase in State COA for Worcester if approved; The collaborative Tufts and GWCF grants applied for with Elder Services and Family Health Center were not funded this year; The final year of the Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund Falls Prevention grant will be funded at \$137,000 for St. Paul's home safety assessments as well as home modification and educational supplies and A Matter of Balance and Tai Chi.

Before discussion of FY'17 allocations, it was announced that Theresa would leave the room during any discussion of Centro, Inc. as she is currently employed there. She did this as well as abstaining from a vote on the recommendation concerning Centro in order to prevent any appearance of a conflict of interest. It was also noted that Theresa's position is not within the Latino Elder Program which is being considered by the committee. Amy presented and the committee discussed potential recommendations in which ideas put forward in prior meetings were incorporated. The following recommendations were approved by the committee:

Tom made a motion, Ursula seconded it and all present (Theresa was not present) voted to recommend approval of the allocation to Centro for the Latino Elder Program contingent upon appropriate resolution of identified programmatic issues and pending funding availability. Tom and Ursula also volunteered to step in for the Chair if necessary as part of the resolution process. Amy agreed to inform the committee, with the exception of Theresa, if there were major changes prior to the June 27th Commission meeting.

Tom made a motion, Chris seconded it and all present voted to approve recommendations for allocations pending funding availability as follows, with Theresa abstaining from the vote on Centro's allocation:

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FY'17recom mendations	Tax Levy	COA*	Friends**	Totals
Afr Amer Eld Prog	3,032	1,128	0	4,160
Eld Home Maint CMHA	15,797	2,198	0	17,995
Eld Outreach St. Paul's	51,512	10,976	0	62,488
Latino Elder Prog Centro	9,800	4,610	0	14,410
Transportation	20,000	0	2,525	22,525
Transport monitor/ Customer Serv.		2,080	2,080	4,160
Computer Lab oper.	3,000	0	3,000	6,000
Comp.lab equip	3,000			3,000
Interpreters	4,000		3,000	7,000
Eld Outreach New Americans*** Ascentria	-	20,460	0	20,460
Senior Center Fitness		5,000	0	5,000
Senior Center Programs		0	7,600	7,600
Fee Subsidies-low income seniors.		0	1,000	1,000
Contingency****	0	19,727	0	19,727
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>110,141</b>	<b>66,179</b>	<b>19,205</b>	<b>195,525</b>

\*State COA based on \$9/elder formula; additional \$1/elder is not yet confirmed.

\*\*Friends FY'17 minimum pledge confirmed at \$15,000 however transportation funding is carry-over of unused funds from prior years special transportation allocation.

\*\*\*Additional \$5,000 allocated to increase services to Arabic speaking seniors by 12 hours/month to help meet growing need. Pending funding availability a further allocation will be considered to expand elder outreach to new Americans from Africa.

\*\*\*\*Contingency may be used for temporary part-time receptionist and/or other items to be determined in the future.

After the allocations discussion and votes, a lease extension was addressed. The committee voted to recommend the extension of SMCH International Meditation Association's lease for another three years per their current lease. (m/s/a)

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## Operations

Patty reported on and the Committee discussed the following: Still managing reception desk with one less senior aide but a volunteer is helping out; Various new students and volunteers are starting soon; the elevators passed inspection; the parking lot pot holes were filled by DPW; there continue to be heating/cooling issues but a new HVAC system is slated to be installed; The Sheriff held a well-attended safety symposium today; the Memory Café continues to be successful and was visited by staff from the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs today; June 29<sup>th</sup> "Elvis" will kick off the summer concert series; a combination travel training/walking club trip is planned; an author's presentation on Alzheimer's Disease was very informative.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. (m/s/a)