

## COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

### Minutes of April 24, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Sandra Bisson; Meg Coffin; Njeri Gichohi; Paul Johnson; Nghia Le; Elizabeth Nguyen; Richard Pinkes; Gail Schuyler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robin Bahr Casey, Tom Cullinane, Matthew Fonseca, Ursula Hanus, Mary Warren

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT: Anh Sawyer, South East Asian Coalition; Amy Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek-Moore; Saideh Mahdavisefat

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Njeri was thanked for her assistance in helping to schedule lawyers for information sessions at the senior center. Introductions were made.

The Commission minutes of March 27, 2017 were approved as mailed. m/s/a

The Senior Center Committee Report of April 20, 2017 was approved as distributed. m/s/a

Anh Sawyer from the South East Asian Coalition reported on the mission and activities of the South East Asian Coalition, including assisting refugees and immigrants with interpretation, translation, mental health, and economic development. 35% of their clients are over age 60 and SEAC works closely with the Senior Center's Vietnamese Elder Group. She also responded to questions from Commissioners.

Amy gave an update on the goals and objectives, reporting on the following: the legislative letter previously approved by the Commission is being signed by the City Manager and was sent to state legislators regarding FY 2018 Council on Aging budget; FY 18 city budget planning has begun; The Greendale Men's Club was thanked for their contribution to the Senior Center; A hearing concerning the WRTA's proposed changes was recently held at the senior center; There were 485 different people who had their tax returns processed through the AARP volunteers at the center, and since the inception of the Prevention Wellness Trust Fund grant, 246 senior home safety assessments and modifications have been done; Saideh is working on the senior center's client satisfaction survey; Work Opportunities Unlimited has decided not to renew their lease at the center; A tour of the vacant building was given to a new developer and a Request for Proposal is being developed by the city administration; and, The Mass Association of Councils on Aging is helping to develop a guidebook for Councils on Aging nationally to work with visually impaired seniors.

Patty reported on building issues (clinic renovation & fire panel) and programs, including the Earth Day cleanup, Know Your City series and the Tornado of 53 video created by a Clark student. May programs include a Positive Aging Symposium on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Linda reported on outreach activities and Evidence Based Programs. She invited everyone to the May 5<sup>th</sup> multicultural event.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned.