

DATE: November 15, 2021
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for November 22nd, 4 pm

The next meeting of the **Commission on Elder Affairs** will be held on **Monday, November 22, 2021 at 4 pm at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street, 01604**. MASKS REQUIRED.

If you cannot attend the business meeting, please contact Amy Vogel Waters at 508-799-1232 x48013 or WatersA@worcesterma.gov.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
 - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - b. Approval of Commission Minutes of October 25, 2021 meeting
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report-November 9, 2021 meeting

- II. Elder Affairs Staff Reports
 - a. Director Report - Strategic Plan Goal and Objectives

 - b. Senior Center Operations Director Report
 1. Developing and Offered Programs
 2. Facility and Grounds

 - c. Manager of Senior Services & Education Report
 1. Outreach, Information, Referral and Advocacy
 2. Multi-cultural Programs & more

- III. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair

-comments &/or questions from Commission members
-comments from others-up to 2 minutes each
-confirm next meeting- **January 24, 2022** at 4 pm unless
emergency meeting called earlier. **Best Holiday Wishes!!!**
-Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
Minutes 10/25/21

Members Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Caroline Sullivan, Facely Henriquez, Kathan Horne, Nancy Greenberg, Noreen Shea, Paul Franco, Richard Pinkes, Richard Shea, Tamara Cullen, Theresa Eckstrom.

Staff Present: Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Amy Waters

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. The members approved the minutes of the 9/27/21 Commission meeting (m/s/a) as well as the Report from the Senior Center Committee meeting 10/12/21 (m/s/a). Robin thanked the following members for agreeing to serve another three year term on the Commission: Paul Franco, Richard Shea and Fran Langille. She also noted that Mariana O'Brien will not be able to renew her commitment at this time.

Amy reported and the members discussed the following: There were no COVID cases that we know of at the Senior Center this month; 47 different remote programs aired YTD; there were 17 hours total FITLOT instructional hours this season; the Management of the fitness center currently being renovated is now out to bid; 1st quarter budget meeting went well; the average daily attendance increase 30% in October, compared to 1st quarter though we are not back to pre-pandemic numbers; reached 52% of our total different program goal for the year; clinics at the Senior Center provided 96 flu, 4 pneumonia and 11 shingles immunizations; we are also hosting Pfizer booster clinics; Technical Program Assistant to start 11/1/21; approach to mask mandate enforcement; support and training for staff to help with pandemic related stress; strengthen our collaboration with the Worcester Public Library; the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is in place for 2021-26 and contains as an objective, receiving Age Friendly Worcester designation.

Patty reported and the members discussed the following: programs such as Thursday's Fitness Festivities, Diversity Celebration, YWCA's Dance Fit 4U, & the Walking Club's success; special training on Alzheimer's provided in Spanish for Latino seniors; farmer's market will move inside for the winter; The renovation projects continue and we are coping OK with the noise and curtailed parking; Thanksgiving dinner will be limited this year; the Veterans Program is virtual again this year; Music Therapy sessions and a special presentation/game will assist seniors take charge of their mental and physical health.

Linda reported and the members discussed the following: SHINE counselors are very busy with Medicare open enrollment; the lack of affordable housing continues to be a major challenge for seniors; Worcester Housing Authority has re-started transportation to/from the Senior Center, currently for approximately 12 seniors/day-we are working to increase interest; support systems are assessed and strengthened for participants with mental health issues; Robin recommended that caregivers/families of people with mental illness be referred to NAMI's Family to Family training and support.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. (m/s/a)

Senior Center Committee Meeting November 09, 2021

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Richard Shea, Fran Langille, Caroline Sullivan, Patty Hainsworth.

Absent: Amy Waters, Chizoma Nosike.

Robin called the meeting to order at the Worcester Senior Center at 12:03 pm. The minutes of the October 12, 21 were approved with a spelling correction from Robin. Assistance changed to assistant. (m/s/a) The next meeting was confirmed for January 11th at 12 pm.

Finances: Patty reported on and the committee discussed the following: Review of the FY 22 quarterly report as prepared by Amy. Still waiting for the state contract. Discussion on salary and revenue changes, including the hiring of the new Technical Program Assistant. Discussion on the recent event relating to the fitness room and Fitlot and the RFP for the fitness room. Patty shared some of the questions potential bidders were asking per committee member's request.

Operations: Patty reported on and the committee discussed the following: Jim Crochiere, newly hired Technical Program Assistant role and experience he brings to the position. Patty and Amy will be meeting with the new Public facilities Director, Julie Linch, to discuss the facility, grounds, staffing and future projects. Patty reported on recent programs including the well-attended event celebrating the Fitlot and fitness room, the Thanksgiving Lunch celebration and the limit on attendees due to COVID 19, Shirley Carter's book signing and presentation as well as upcoming remote programs including the 6 week WISE series and the Veteran's Day program. December programs include a month of holiday music, LIBBY's return, featured speakers, and virtual entertainment.

Update provided on the state of the parking lot and new solar canopy. Patty reported on the upcoming temporary closure of the Spurr St. entrance. Patty shared information on the successful walking club this season, the recent DMH training and limited senior center attendance. It was asked if we know why some seniors were not returning and discussion included various reasons like fear of COVID 19 and decline in health.

The meeting adjourned. (m/s/a)