

Commission on Elder Affairs
Hosted by Elder Affairs Commission

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Monday, Nov 23, 2020 4:00 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
Meeting number: 172 187 4533
Password: 3WHwZQs9QS2
63844667b6884c49af85ec9823b38c6c

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DATE: November 16, 2020
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda

The next meeting of the **Commission on Elder Affairs** will be held on **Monday, November 23, 2020 at 4 pm via webex**. 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 26, 2020
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on Nov. 9, 2020 meeting
- II. Elder Affairs Staff Reports
 - a. Director Report - Strategic Plan Goal and Objectives including report from Duncan Calder, Clark University Information & Technology intern.
 - 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 25, 2021 at 4 pm (no Dec. meeting unless emergency)
 - Adjourn

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COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
10/26/20 MINUTES

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Mariana O'Brien, Theresa Eckstrom, Caroline Sullivan, Noreen Shea, Richard Pinkes, Chizoma Nosike, Fran Langille, Facely Henriquez, Kathan Horne, Nancy Greenberg, Nghia Le, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Amy Waters.

The meeting was called to order on webex by Robin at 4:04 p.m. The minutes of the 9/21/20 meeting of the Commission on Elder Affairs were approved (m/s/a). The report from the Senior Center Committee of 10/13/20 was approved (m/s/a).

The following was reported as Amy highlighted the monthly report: The Governor produced a new budget which preserves the COA Formula Grant at \$12/elder but it needs approval by legislature; we have reached 37% of our goal for new programs; a second drive-through flu clinic was held in conjunction with HHS and Walgreens; the City Manager is considering a conservative timeline to reopen the center to staff and seniors; staff attended and presented at the statewide MCOA conference online this year; the state/city license for QCC to operate at the senior center is in process; a temporary emergency lease for the YWCA to provide state licensed school age childcare is in process with the end date in February; a new Request for Proposals has been issued by Economic Development to attract a developer for the vacant nurses residence into elder housing or something complimentary to the Senior Center; there have been over 7,000 views of our YouTube videos, with Fitness videos garnering the most views as people turn to them to exercise repeatedly.

Patty reported on the following facility issues: parking lot is renovated and rain gardens are planted; had meeting to start implementing the CDBG kitchen equipment replacement project; Plexiglas has been ordered; HVAC still needs work. She also reported on programs: Suki has made new contacts with Preservation Worcester, Antiquarian Society, WISE etc, the Public Library also is providing programming; Holiday concerts and programs are shaping up and the Mayor along with Atty Vigliotti will make their annual Thanksgiving lunch donation directly to ESWA to support Meals on Wheels; the "Grab and Go" cultural meals started this month with Vietnamese lunches prepared by QCC, averaging 63 weekly; "Grab and Go" will expand to other cultures and QCC will also provide weekly meal replacements starting in November; the Veteran's Day program will include a slide show of various participants over the years; and, Dementia Friendly Worcester continues virtual activities.

Linda reported that senior services staff remain very busy assisting with personal matters using a variety of methods to prevent the spread of covid; SHINE, fuel assistance and SNAP applications are needed and such help is being accepted more readily by seniors; the UMASS Medical Student Falls prevention Clerkship is in its last week and has been valuable despite having to remain virtual; and multi-cultural elder groups continue to remain in contact via technology and their coordinators.

Caroline shared information about the Catholic Charities Thanksgiving Dinner. Fran shared information about the Worcester State University Urban Action Center's intergenerational programs. Nancy talked about one of the silver linings of the pandemic being virtual collaborations such as the Mahjong and Canasta zoominars conducted through a partnership between the JCC and the Senior Center.

The next meeting was confirmed for 11/23/20 at 4 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm (m/s/a).

Report to Commission on Elder Affairs

Senior Center Committee meeting 11/10/2020

Present: Richard Shea, Caroline Sullivan, Chizoma Nosike, Fran Langille, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters

As Robin could not make it to chair today, Richard called the meeting to order via Webex at 12:06 p.m. The minutes of 10/13/20 were approved (m/s/a). It was decided that the next meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday of January at noon unless Amy requests to schedule a December meeting. It was also recommended that the December meeting of the Commission on Elder Affairs be cancelled unless an emergency need to meet arises.

Finances: Amy reported that so far FY'21 city and state funds are stable and that the House voted to support the Governor's new budget which preserves \$12/elder for the formula grant. The budget still requires approval from the Senate. Amy reported on the status of the YWCA temporary lease and the QCC license. She also reminded the Committee that bids are due 11/20 for the development of the vacant portion of the building.

Operations: Patty reported on building services and the parking lot rain gardens. She also noted that an average of 40 cultural meals/week are distributed curbside for a \$2.50 voluntary donation, and that the first QCC meal replacement grab and go served 13 meals @ \$6/meal. In addition, Patty described some of the outstanding remote programming developed for Ch. 192 and Youtube viewing for "Stay Connected." Amy and Patty reviewed the various steps being taken to re-open the building including: Staff are now officially permitted to work onsite at the rate of 50% following city approved procedures; plexiglass should be installed soon; and the city will provide a monitor for the door to ensure covid procedure compliance once the Center is opened to seniors. Amy will be discussing reopening issues for seniors and tenants at an upcoming meeting with the City Manager and Dr. Castiel. Chizoma suggested that we learn from the experiences of day programs which have opened already. Approaches to resuming leases in the future were also discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm (m/s/a).