

Commission on Elder Affairs

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Monday, Feb 22, 2021 4:00 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 180 959 1628

Password: qNMbEGti233

Join by video system

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DATE: February 12, 2021
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, February 22, 2021 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 January 25, 2021 meeting
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on February 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- March 22, 2021 at 4 pm
 - Adjourn

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COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

JANUARY 25, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

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

Robin called the meeting to order on Webex at 4:10 pm. Tamara was introduced as our newest Commission member. The minutes of Nov. 23, 2020 were approved (m/s/a). The Senior Center Committee Report of 1/12/21 was approved (m/s/a).

Amy reported on the following: Apparent misinformation is leading to many calls and confusion about the vaccine which we are working to clarify; The FY'22 city budget process has begun and we've been asked to propose both a level funded budget as well as a 3% reduction; the FY'21 State COA level funded contract is in the process of signing and it is expected that a contract will arrive for another \$9,000 for multi-cultural health through a COA service incentive grant; achieved 56% of annual goal for number of different programs offered despite remaining remote; made over 29,000 senior contacts since the start of the pandemic; senior center serving as vaccine distribution site for emergency responders and is expected to expand; remediation of the fitness center is almost finished and architectural plans are progressing; YWCA temporary lease for remote learning site at the senior center is coming to an end this month; working with law department on creating licenses for all tenants; the proposal for development of the vacant wing was evaluated to be weak; high viewer rates for remote programming and f.b. posts; and have attended and provided input re: older adults for various planning meetings for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Patty reported on the following: Details being worked on for CDBG Kitchen appliance project; Ionization air purifier installation has started; steam boilers fixed; solar panels scheduled to be installed in parking lot this summer; no commitment yet from AARP to help seniors prepare taxes; Grab & Go cultural meals still going well; Library providing activity packs for seniors; REC holding HIP2GO farmer's market distributions at the Senior Center weekly; Interns working on valentines project remotely; Senior Aides are currently not allowed to work inside the senior center; many awesome remote programs for the holidays and more-special thanks to Suki for program coordination; and Dementia Friendly Worcester holding forum in April.

Linda reported on the following: Over 200 sand buckets distributed along with inhome safety assessments when possible; SHINE counselors greatly assisted during Medicare open enrollment period; Many calls re: vaccines, stimulus checks, taxes, SNAP/food, fuel assistance and housing.

Commission members discussed resources for seniors facing eviction; the contributing factors and the need for affordable elder housing-increasing it being an Age Friendly objective. A motion was made and approved:

Request that a representative of the city administration speak at a Commission meeting regarding the how the city is taking into consideration the need for affordable elder housing. (m/s/a)

Amy will follow up on this request.

Robin adjourned the meeting at 4:55. (m/s/a)

REPORT TO COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS Senior Center Committee 2/29/21 minutes

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Richard Shea, Caroline Sullivan, Chizoma Nosike, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters

Robin called the meeting to order at 12:05 via webex. The minutes of 1/12/21 were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for March 9th at noon.

Amy reviewed the status of the FY'22 budget which may be reduced up to 25% by the state and 3 % by the city. She reviewed the proposed budget scenarios to be submitted to the budget office this week along with a strategic plan which directly relates to the budget. In light of this, the following motions were made and approved:

- *The Elder Affairs' strategic plan (attached) is recommended to be submitted for approval as part of the budget request. (m/s/a).*
- *The proposed Administrative Assistant 6-Technical Program Support, grade 33, is recommended to be submitted for approval with the understanding that the step at which a candidate is hired will be contingent upon their level of qualifications. (m/s/a)*
- *The new Fitness Center is recommended to be funded fully, which requires an increase of \$154,050 for this line item. (m/s/a)*

Amy also reported on the following: As approved last month, \$5000 was awarded to support the Southeast Asian Center's delivery of food/meals; funds are being held to supplement \$36,000 Community Development Block Grant if needed for the kitchen appliance replacement project which will be re-bid; QCC license for kitchen/diner has been finalized but all other leases/licenses are still being worked on.

Patty reported on the following: The fitness renovation is currently at the stage of removal of coal from the old floor; the ionization air purifier system is partially installed; the temporary tenant, the YWCA, has moved out; Remote programs continue with exercise remaining very popular, February highlight is heart health talk; zoominars taking place (e.g. photography, mahjong), an array of St. Patrick's Day programs coming in March; program partners include the District Attorney, the Sheriff, Worcester Art Museum, the Library and more, working to expand cultural meals with QCC, & Doherty High students made 200 valentines we're sending to seniors.

Chizoma agreed to share information at a Commission meeting regarding affordable housing. There was also discussion about the process for vaccinating seniors to prevent COVID 19.

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

Division of Elder Affairs Strategic Plan FY'2022 & onward...

Mission: To enhance the well-being of Worcester's senior population by optimizing services on behalf of mature adults and their families via the Worcester Senior Center which promotes health, social connection, fitness, education and independence.

Vision Statement: To support diverse seniors to maintain and improve their self-determined quality of life as they grow older by providing information, advocacy, programs and activities which address their needs and interests.

Strategic Goal: To recover from the impact of the pandemic which caused the temporary closure of the Senior Center facility and a shift to remote services and relationships with the city's seniors.

Strategic Objectives:

1. Facilitate the return of seniors to participation at the Senior Center safely.
2. Evaluate lessons learned from the pandemic and incorporate positive findings into Senior Center operations.
3. Implement new initiatives to enhance the accomplishment of our mission.

Strategic Initiatives:

1. Refine re-opening plans to reflect the most up to date public health practices.
2. Assess the level at which quality remote programming can be maintained to offer a senior center "without walls" while operating the physical hub as re-opened.
3. Enhance fitness programming utilizing the new outdoor equipment already installed, as well as the Fitness Center under construction inside the Senior Center.

Measurements:

1. Re-opening of the Senior Center is implemented with no resulting spread of the virus.
2. The number of programs & services offered remotely or as a hybrid of in- person and remote delivery.
3. Fitness professionals retained providing a certain number of program hours utilizing the new equipment and space.