

DATE: June 17, 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, June 28, 2021 at 4 pm at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street, 01604.** 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 May 24, 2021 meeting
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on June 8, 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- September 27, 2021 at 4 pm
 - Adjourn

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COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
May 24, 2021 Minutes

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Richard Shea, Theresa Eckstrom, Caroline Sullivan, Paul Franco, Kathan Horne, Fran Langille, Nancy Greenberg, Noreen Shea, Richard Pinkes, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm on WebEx. The minutes of the Commission meeting held on April 26, 21 were approved (m/s/a). The report on the Senior Center Committee meeting held May 11, 21 were approved (m/s/a).

Amy reported on the following: budget status for FY'21 and FY'22 & the upcoming city council budget hearing; 227 different programs (mainly remote) this fiscal year; planning for reopening the building continues based on city and state recommendations; a total of 41,720 senior contacts have been made by the senior center since the start of the pandemic; approximately 78% of city residents age 65+ are fully vaccinated; the Senior Center Committee report reflects allocations to community programs based on a review of evaluations and the committee held a projected \$46,389 to recommend to allocate once the FY'22 city and state budgets are finalized; applications for the Receptionist & Front Desk Coordinator are due May 28, 21; the City Manager recommended that the City Council approve a new position-Technology Program Assistant; Human Resources is expected to provide building monitors to assist with reopening; article on multicultural meals published in Edge Magazine; Central MA Agency on Aging has begun work to coordinate having Worcester designated as "Age Friendly."

Patty reported on the following: landscaping (mowing, mulching) has begun via Energy & Asset Management; Community Gardens are prepared with help from senior aides; waiting to hear more about the fitness and solar projects; kitchen appliance project is underway; students received dementia friendly training; the Regional Environmental Council's Mobile Farmer's Market will start at the senior center in June; the virtual walking club has started; many mother's day programs aired; Memorial Day speaker will focus on WWI; the Art Museum and other continue to partner for programming; new exercise programs being taped.

Linda reported on the following: many senior services calls, emails and 1-1 appointments; SHINE and legal consultation starting in June; multicultural groups continue and many want to return to the building.

Nancy praised the partnership between the JCC, senior center and cable services which produced many interesting programs. Paul will look into obtaining discounted Polar Park tickets for seniors.

The next meeting of the Commission was confirmed for June 28, 21 at 4 pm. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm. (m/s/a)

REPORT TO COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Senior Center Committee 6.8.21

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-chair; Richard Shea, Caroline Sullivan, Fran Langille, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

Robin called the meeting to order at noon via WebEx. The minutes of 5.11.21 were approved (m/s/a). It was decided to skip summer meetings as usual and wait until August to determine when and where the September 14th meeting will be held.

Amy reported on, and the Committee discussed the following: the City Council budget hearing was positive and approval was given for the new Technical Program Assistant as well as funding for the management of the new fitness center; Ascentria will continue to coordinate the Arabic Elder Group but will likely also serve newer refugees and immigrants from Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Congo-DRC and Somalia; the law dept. approved a letter to be sent to tenants once the senior center's opening date is confirmed, requiring full rent, after more than a 30 day notice; Currently reviewing 50+ applications for the receptionist position.

Patty reported on, and the Committee discussed the following: The building is being prepared for reopening; the DPH vaccination clinic has vacated, but has left a refrigerator to hold vaccines for a final clinic at the Senior Center on June 17th; the basic program schedule will be increased as time goes on but initially it will include games, lunch, musical entertainment, crafts, multicultural groups, Bobby M's Diner and more; Fitness programs are scheduled to start in July; The City Manager and Dr. Hirsh will speak at the first lunch and will be recorded to be played at other times; other remote programs will continue.

Amy reviewed the welcome notice and both she and Patty answered questions. Richard congratulated the staff for gearing up for the reopening so quickly.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm (m/s/a).