

DATE: October 18, 2021  
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties  
FROM: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair  
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for October 25<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm

The next meeting of the **Commission on Elder Affairs** will be held on **Monday, October 25, 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](mailto:WatersA@worcesterma.gov).

### **BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
  - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - b. Approval of Commission Minutes of September 27, 2021 meeting
  - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on October 12, 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- November 22, 2021 at 4 pm
  - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs Minutes 9.27.21

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Caroline Sullivan, Facely Henriquez, Fran Langille, Kathan Horne, Noreen Shea, Richard Pinkes, Richard Shea, Tamara Cullen, Theresa Eckstrom, Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore.

Robin called the meeting to order at the Worcester Senior Center at 4:07 p.m. The minutes of the June 28, 21 meeting were approved (m/s/a). The Report from the Sept 14, 21 Senior Center Committee were approved (m/s/a).

Amy reported and the Commission discussed the following: Special goal and objectives for FY'22 re: recovering from the impact of the pandemic; funding status; data re: participation which seems to indicate that many seniors are staying home due to the pandemic and while hundreds are registered, they do not participate as often; reached 45% of annual goal for number of different programs so far this year; in process of hiring new Technical Program Administrative Assistant; new Front Desk Receptionist is a great fit; challenges of implementing mask mandate; and we are continuing many collaborations.

Patty reported and the Commission discussed the following: Solar canopy and thermal solar projects are in process; Fitness Center renovation project is also in process; we are coping with disruptions in the parking lot and bus route for these renovations; grounds needs tending to but community gardens are getting cleaned up; FitLot is well utilized and a pathway was put in by DPW; there is background entertainment provided for various lunches; Many great onsite and remote programs; 10/28 at 11 a.m. will be the Fitness Festivities event; Multicultural lunches will return in October; and Dementia Friendly Worcester is supporting a Latino elder event.

Linda reported and the Commission discussed the following: creating multi-cultural video with Dr. Passey and coordinators; busy helping people with SNAP, housing, unemployment, masshealth, fuel assistance, & property tax exemptions; our 2 volunteer attorneys are very busy as is our SHINE counselor; WHA started up transporting senior residents to and from the senior center again; involved with UMASS Medical School Clerkship; and a QCC intern is providing assistance.

There was some discussion about the lack of affordable housing and rising costs in general. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. (m/s/a)

Report to Commission on Elder Affairs  
Senior Center Committee Meeting October 12, 2021

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

Robin called the meeting to order at the Worcester Senior Center at 12:05 pm. The minutes of September 14, 21 were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for Nov. 9, 21 at noon, although Robin will be away.

Finances: Amy reported on and the committee discussed the following: public funding remains stable although we are still waiting for the updated census #'s to finalize the state formula grant contract; status of Friends funding; a potential developer toured the 26 wing; hiring process continues for the technical program assistance.

Operations: Patty reported on and the committee discussed the following: New Energy and Asset Manager toured the grounds and will be returning to see the building so she can assist with both as needed, including preparing the grounds for the 10/28 Fitness Festivities event; various details are challenging the multi-cultural meals program but it has gone forward; remote and in person programs continue, of particular note is the Alzheimer's educational event offered in Spanish, the YWCA's new Dance Fit program, Flu Clinics and the downsized Thanksgiving event.

It was asked if we have had any Afghani refugees come to the center and it was noted that it is not clear whether those relocating to Worcester have seniors in their families. Implementing the mask mandate and holding an initial booster clinic was also discussed.

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