

DATE: March 21, 2022
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for March 28, 2022, 4 pm

The next meeting of the **Commission on Elder Affairs** will be held on **Monday, March 28, 2022 at 4 pm at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street**. Members who cannot attend, 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 February 28, 2022 meeting
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report- March 8, 2022 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- **April 25, 2022** at 4 pm
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Caroline Sullivan, Facely Henriquez, Kathan Horne, Noreen Shea, Paul Franco, Richard Shea, Thuha Le, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

Robin called the meeting to order at 128 Providence Street at 4:05 pm. She announced the regretful resignations of Chizoma Nosike and Theresa Eckstrom, and welcomed new Commission member, Thuha Le. Robin reminded members to complete their ethics documents review and return their receipts and also noted that a new edition of the Senior Center guidebook is in their folders.

Amy reported on and the Commission discussed the following: Senior Center closed January through mid-February to curtail the spread of Omicron which has now abated; We will learn more about the status of FY'23 tax levy budget in March; State COA contract is in the signing process and will cover the next ten years; Medical transportation costs are rising and will be evaluated for FY'23; New Language Line service implemented; 230 different programs offered year to date, reaching 80% of our goal; Senior Services began outreach to 6 Worcester Housing Authority buildings to increase participation with free transportation to and from the Senior Center; Senior Services also working on building services for immigrants from African nations who are aging in place; Vaccination clinics continue on Fridays at the Senior Center; SEAC is helping with deliveries for cultural meals and HIP2GO groceries; The mask mandate has been lifted and staff continues to educate seniors about the benefits of wearing masks and getting boosters; Racial equity audit continues and staff participate in various trainings; Rents were reduced to reflect closure for 2 weeks of building-lost \$1100 in revenue; In process of renewing 5 licenses for space; 2% increase in Facebook followers this month; Participation onsite is slowly increasing; State Secretary of Elder Affairs and others like our new video PSA's, including Rosie the Riveter (aka Jenny L) encouraging people to get boosted. City Manager and Mayor signed letter of support for obtaining Age Friendly Worcester designation...copies of the letter were distributed to members.

Patty reported on and the Commission discussed the following: Thanked today's videographer for the meeting for her role in creating the PSA's; Elvis concert was a successful way to return on site after the pandemic closure; Have had other concerts, Valentines from the Red Sox, Pet Therapy, Concert and movie for Black History Month, and more onsite; Remote programming includes QCC Food Trends, Shir Joy concert, and St. Patrick's day will be both live and remote; Another hybrid program is planned for April re: MahJong; Volunteer Recognition will be "grab and go" this year; Instead of a health and safety fair this year, there will be daily displays; Implemented multi-cultural meals 4 days/week; Senior Aides terms are ending and more hours will be added to cleaning company; Fitness Center renovation is progressing; roof and door repaired; and Landscaping contract going out to bid.

Robin adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm (m/s/a).

REPORT TO COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Senior Center Committee meeting - March 8, 2022

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Caroline Sullivan, Patty Hainsworth,
Amy Waters

Robin called the meeting to order at noon at 128 Providence Street. The February minutes could not be officially approved due to lack of quorum. Changing the April meeting date was discussed and Amy will poll all members.

Finances: Amy reported on and the committee discussed the following: status of city and state funding; timeline for budget planning; preliminary projections of spending for fy'22 and budgeting for fy'23; program evaluation process; potential goals and objectives, addressing medical transportation costs; piloting Grandpad technology program if feasible; City auditor confirmed market rate for office space at \$18-\$22/square foot; and working to finalize five license renewals.

Operations: Patty reported on and the committee discussed the following: One senior aide already had his last day and the other two will be leaving shortly; it is expected that the Dept. of Public Facilities (DPF) will increase the cleaning company hours to fill the gap; DPF is also hiring landscapers to take care of the grounds; The Center reopened on Feb. 14th and participation is building up; the St. Patrick's Day even will be on site as well as online, featuring Parade Grand Marshalls Augustus and Hirsh, corned beef & cabbage as well as a concert by the McCrites; Volunteer Recognition this April will be a special "Grab and Go" in which we hope Commission members will partake; for volunteer recognition there will also be a speaker about retirement planning/civic engagement; thanks to AARP, two shred events will take place in the parking lot; and the fitness center renovation is continuing although the windows are still delayed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.