

Commission on Elder Affairs

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Monday, May 24, 2021 4:00 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 172 558 5206

Password: rpFE3e9REV6

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DATE: May 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, May 24, 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 April 26, 2021 meeting
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on May 11, 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- June 28, 2021 at 4 pm
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
April 26, 2021 Minutes

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

Robin called the meeting to order via WebEx at 4:03 pm. The minutes of the 3/22/21 Commission on Elder Affairs meeting were approved (m/s/a). The Report from the 4/12/21 Senior Center Committee was approved (m/s/a).

Amy reported on the following: FY'21 tax levy funding is stable and the City Manager has lifted the hiring freeze so the Principal Clerk/Receptionist position will be advertised; Support for a new Technology Program Assistant as well as for the management of the Fitness Center was requested for FY'22; Once the City Council budget hearing is scheduled for FY'22, the Commission will be notified; The FY'22 state Council on Aging remains in the legislative process but looks promising; the Community Development Block Grant will fund the kitchen appliance project this spring; 213 different remote programs have been offered in this fiscal year; tenant status updated; Will be receiving a tool kit from the state to assist with reopening of the senior center, which will be complicated due to the renovation schedule; 39,373 senior contacts have been made since the start of the pandemic; senior center staff are assisting with a range of activities involving the city's vaccination clinic; approximately 86% of Worcester residents over age 65 have had at least one vaccination; and there have been 14,072 YouTube views of our Stay Connected videos since starting production in March 2020.

Patty reported on the following: the various renovations as noted in the Senior Center committee minutes; closer to implementing the kitchen appliance project; addressing alarm company issues; community gardens are being prepared; senior aides working 29 hours/wk through June; the Dementia Friendly Forum went well; 6 Mother's Day related programs are coming up in May; and a walking club kick-off program is being planned.

Linda reported on the increasing numbers of one to one, on site, senior services appointments which are going well, adhering to covid precautions. Staff have been busy assisting with public benefit and housing applications, meals and food box deliveries.

Mariana requested and Amy agreed that the Commission be notified of upcoming vaccination clinics. Noreen brought up a concern regarding the "Silver Alert" system; Kathan suggested that Polar Park should be approached to include senior days. Patty noted that the WooSox have provided programming at the senior center pre-pandemic and a video tour is being produced for remote viewing. She also noted that Suki is following up on potential future Polar Park perks for seniors.

Robin confirmed the next meeting will be 5/24/21 at 4 pm. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm (m/s/a).

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE 5/11/21

Present: Robin Bahr Casey, Chizoma Nosiki, Caroline Sullivan, Fran Langille, Richard Shea, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

Robin called the meeting to order at 12:07 on Webex. The 4/13/21 minutes were approved (m/s/a)
The next meeting was confirmed for 6/8/21 at noon on Webex.

Amy reported and the committee discussed: FY'22 City Budget hearing 6/1/21, 5 pm on Webex; The City Manager's recommendation includes funding for the management of the new fitness center as well as a new position-Technology Program Assistant; as we will not know the final state COA budget for some time, a conservative program budget was proposed and carefully reviewed; the following motion was made by Richard Shea and approved (m/s/a):

Recommend approval of the following FY'22 allocations, leaving \$46,389 unallocated for future consideration:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| African American Elder Group Coordinator | \$ 4,703 |
| Chinese Elder Group Coordinator | \$ 22,338 |
| Club 60+ Latino Elder Group Coordinator | \$ 22,338 |
| Computer Lab | \$ 2,400 |
| Dementia/Age Friendly | \$ 4,400 |
| Elder Home Maintenance-CMHA | \$ 17,995 |
| Elder Outreach-St. Paul's | \$111,308 |
| Elder Outreach-New Americans-Ascentria | \$ 23,748 |
| Fitness/Wellness Programs | \$ 11,695 |
| Interpreters | \$ 10,000 |
| Landscaping | \$ 1,000 |
| MCOA Dues | \$ 4,520 |
| Misc.Fee Subsidies,Programs, Supplies | \$ 11,000 |
| Personnel-COA state portion | \$178,913 |
| Walking Club | \$ 1,731 |
| 2% City grant fee | \$ 7,202 |
| <i>Contingency</i> | <u>\$ 46,389</u> |
| Total | \$481,680 |

Amy also updated the committee on leases, development and staffing. The formerly frozen Principal Clerk/Receptionist position will be advertised soon, with input on wording from the City's Diversity Officer.

Patty reported on and the committee discussed: The fitness center and parking lot solar array projects are moving forward and we should know more about the timeline soon; New kitchen appliances have been ordered per the CDBG grant; The Energy and Asset Management Dept. hired the landscaper to mow the lawn; the community gardens are progressing; May programs focus on Mother's Day; June will bring a virtual tour of Polar Park, Father's Day program, "Elvis," and the virtual walking club kick off. Also discussed were the beginning plans for the reopening of the Senior Center facility; One to one services are being offered and a video tour/orientation for the "new normal" will be produced; there are many questions yet to be answered prior to opening for group programs.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm (m/s/a).