

DATE: October 17, 2022  
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties  
FROM: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair  
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for September 24, 2022, 4 pm

The next meeting of the **Commission on Elder Affairs** will be held on **Monday, October 24, 2022, 4 p.m. 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](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 Sept 19, 2022 meeting
  - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on Oct 11, 2022 meeting
- II. Recognition of Employees and Outgoing Commission Members
- III. 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
- IV. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
  - comments &/or questions from Commission members
  - comments from others-up to 2 minutes each
  - confirm next meeting- **November 28, 2022, 4 p.m., at Senior Center**
  - Adjourn

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**Commission on Elder Affairs**  
September 19, 2022 Minutes

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Caroline Sullivan, Facely Henriquez, Kathan Horne, Lovo Koliogo, Nancy Greenberg, Sarah Faucher, Stephen Corridori, Tamara Cullen, Thuha Le, Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Dr. Matilde Castiel, Emily Pena-student

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at the Worcester Senior Center. Introductions were made and Steve, our new commission member, was welcomed. Robin then introduced our guest speaker, Health and Human Services Commissioner, Dr. Mattie Castiel.

Dr. Castiel's presentation covered many aspects of the city's public health including: equity principles, mental health and substance abuse services, addressing covid-19, the city's crisis intervention team, approaches to assisting people without housing, the impact of incarceration policies, the need for sex education, fitness in the parks, cultural meals at the senior center, and the cabinet for families & children and more. She reviewed the city's demographics including geographic locations where most BIPOC individuals live in the city and the prevalence of public health issues in that area. She pointed out a major disparity in life expectancies based on where one lives. Hotel Grace and the work to develop affordable housing was also discussed.

Robin called for votes to approve the minutes of the June 27, 22 Commission meeting (m/s/a) and the report from the Sept. 13, 22 Senior Center Committee meeting (m/s/a).

Amy reported on and the Commission discussed the following: first quarter progress on the FY'23 Department Development Plan Goals including numbers of different programs, culturally & linguistically responsive services, reaching outside the center's neighborhood and the racial equity report; current funding was reviewed and the possible increase in state funding was noted; Age Friendly Worcester adjusts to new leadership; report on FY'22 service data; new technology monitoring use of the building; staff working hard and managing well; average daily attendance is still 20% lower than pre-pandemic, and Lovo was thanked for the collaboration to bring the CHAN African elders to the senior center for a summer series.

Patty reported on and the Commission discussed the following: there were many popular programs this summer such as the antique car show and the tercentennial series; Fallon Health fitness funds are being used for new programs such as "Guys, Guys, Guys;" September's multicultural month programming is going well and all were invited to contribute their fingerprint as a leaf on our diversity tree artwork; a memorial tree planting event will remember those lost during the pandemic; the Fitness Center soft opening is going well with official ribbon cuttings coming up; water damage to the lobby ceiling was fixed and a temporary fix was made to the external door near the reception desk; and a garden to table event will be held to celebrate the success of the community gardens.

Thuha commended the staff for continuing to accomplish so much. Amy noted that the Commission will have the opportunity to meet and thank them at the October meeting.

Robin adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm (m/s/a).

Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs  
Senior Center Committee Meeting Oct.11, 2022

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Richard Shea; Caroline Sullivan, Facely Henriquez, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters

Robin called the meeting to order on zoom at 12:03 pm. The minutes of Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> were approved (m/s/a) and the next meeting was confirmed for Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. The committee acknowledged that this is Robin's last official meeting as her term is up this month, and thanked her for her leadership. The committee also thanked Dick for taking on the chair position in November.

Amy shared an updated allocations budget and discussed with the committee the status of state coa funding, WRTA remaining fare free, spending on technology to upgrade MSC swipe stations and video streaming, and potential future expenditures on newsletter and staffing. There was discussion about staffing and the committee voted as follows:

*Encourage the Director to explore and develop recommendations to present to the committee and the city administration regarding various multicultural coordinator positions (m/s/a)*

Amy noted that the leases are status quo and that the Dept. of Public Facilities is working on an existing conditions study of the vacant nurse's residence with recommendations about development. Plans for the recognition program at the next Commission meeting were also discussed.

Patty reported on and the committee discussed the following: Ribbon cutting events for the fitness center are coming up-BCBS on 10/26 10:30 am and Fallon on 11/3 10:30 am; the TV star of "The Voice," Cara Brindisi, is performing here on Monday; the Sheriff is distributing winter coats here to seniors in need; flu, pneumonia, shingles and covid vaccines continue to be distributed at clinic here; the Fitness Center is now open 9 am-4 pm; Restoring Your Health is a new popular program; 11/9 will be our annual Veterans Day event and the Thanksgiving meal is once again being sponsored by the Mayor and Attorney Vigliotti however the craft fair is on hold as it is too congested for covid safety. Patty also reported on the plans to replace an external door, fix water damage and complete the furnishings for the Fitness Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm after again thanking Robin for her leadership. (m/s/a)

