

DATE: March 16, 2023  
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties  
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair  
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for March 27, 2023, 4 pm via Zoom

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting via zoom on **Monday, March 27, 2023, 4 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87262681725?pwd=ZmlwbytCN1FFUm1jSXl3TEZyMUhDdz09> Meeting ID: 872 6268 1725 Passcode: 784012

One tap mobile +16469313860,,87262681725#,,,,\*784012# US

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbRhI6EwnK>

Members who cannot attend, please contact Amy Vogel Waters at 508-799-1232 x48013 or [WatersA@worchesterma.gov](mailto:WatersA@worchesterma.gov).

### **BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
  - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - b. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2023
  - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee March 14, 2023, meeting report
  
- II. Presentation: **Benji Kemper, Community Organizer, Center for Living and Working, re: housing and transportation initiatives**
  
- 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- April 24, 2023 at 4 pm at **Worcester Senior Center.**

-Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs  
February 27, 2023 Minutes

Present: Fran Langille-Chair, Richard Shea, Faceley Henriquez, Thuha Le, Kathan Horne, Sarah Faucher, Caroline Sullivan, Tamara Cullen, Noreen Shea, Steve Corridori, Lovo Kolleigo, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, Lan Le, Amy Waters, Asia Simpson.

Fran called the meeting to order on zoom at 4:02 pm. The minutes of the January 23, 23 Commission meeting were approved (m/s/a). The Report on the Senior Center Committee meeting of February 14, 23 was approved (m/s/a).

Fran introduced our guest speaker, Asia Simpson, Injury Prevention Coordinator at UMASS Memorial Medical Center. She noted that the top injury cause for both adults and youth is falls. She briefly discussed her work with pediatrics on car seat education and safety classes for 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The programs provided for adults include: stop the bleed training, brains at risk, and fall prevention. She described the 9 week fall prevention and wellness series which will be held at the senior center starting April 11<sup>th</sup> which will include: Fall risk assessments/ recommendations; aging gracefully, medications review, mental health, brain injuries after falls, fire safety, avoiding scams/fraud, eyes/ears/feet and falls, resource panel, cpr training, blood pressure screening, information tables as well as free lunch and entertainment. Linda and Suki were recognized for working with Asia to make this a success. Discussion followed.

Linda reported on and the commission discussed the following: Lan Le is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> week as Senior Services Assistant and will meet the Vietnamese Elder Group on Thursday; senior services is extremely busy helping people with public benefits, housing, snap, fuel assistance, SHINE and is also seeing increased mental health issues; new participants have joined the Latino and Chinese Elder Groups; many of the Arabic Elder Group are impacted by the emergency repair of Elm Park Tower; & Black History month was celebrated with a talk on Worcester's Black History Trail.

Amy reported on and the commission discussed the following: Most of the departmental development plan goals have been exceeded; the City Manager has agreed to sign the letter to state legislators in support of an increase to the COA budget line item- *A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the draft letter to legislators recommending an increase in the COA formula grant from \$12 to \$14 per elder resident.* Richard urged Commission members to contact their legislators to support this personally also. Amy continued her report: The meeting with the Budget Office on FY23 spending and the FY'24 request went well; 114% of our goal for different programs offered this year has been reached; provided input into the Worcester Now/Next priority survey; marketing is going well; and the Senior Center was utilized as an overnight warming center during the extreme cold Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.

Patty reported on and the Commission discussed the following: Planning has begun to replace the roof over the lunchroom section of the building (another section leaked recently also);

repairs were made to the freezer and fryer; the sprinkler system passed inspection; the basement door was fixed; still waiting for items for the fitness center but going well; February distinguished speaker programs were very successful; upcoming programs include St. Patrick's Day honoring Grand Marshall Gordon Hargrove, CC Lowell art classes, comedy workshops, illusionist performance and WISE virtual programs.

Fran expressed thanks to the staff for their efforts and invited Commission members to introduce themselves and their affiliations. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm (m/s/a).

## REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS Senior Center Committee Meeting March 14, 2023

Present: Richard Shea, Caroline Sullivan, Facely Henriquez, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters

Richard called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm via ZOOM. The minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for April 11, 2023, noon via zoom.

Amy reported on and the committee discussed the following: the letter to the state legislature about the need for increasing the Council on Aging Formula grant has gone out and 4 legislators have already acknowledged it; yesterday's meeting with the City Manager and Chief Financial Officer regarding the FY'24 Budget included a review of the challenges the city is facing for funding next year and the request Elder Affairs submitted; Program evaluation requests have been sent to subcontracted services and responses will be reviewed at the April meeting; a revision to the guidebook to reflect current practices regarding space usage at the senior center; continuing work on participant survey.

Patty reported on and the committee discussed the following: resolving issues with the alarm system; roof replacement scheduled for the summer; carpets being cleaned and/or replaced; AutoLend library has been installed-ribbon cutting will be April 3<sup>rd</sup>; we now have a live streaming set up so events in the lunchroom can be televised in the lobby; big St. Patrick's Day event this Friday; various programs were highlighted; The Wellness Series starts in April; Worcester Fitness is teaching 2 classes, 2/week and will be adding a third; the Diversity Tree project has been framed for hanging.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM (m/s/a)