

DATE: April 14, 2023
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for April 24, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting on **Monday, April 24, 2023, 4 p.m. in person at the Worcester Senior Center, 2nd floor Wellness Center, 128 Providence Street, Worcester MA 01604.** Members who are unable to attend should contact Amy at watersa@worcesterma.gov.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
 - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - b. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2023
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee April 11, 2023, meeting report

- II. Presentation: **Patty Hainsworth, Operations Director and Certified Dementia Practitioner, will conduct an abbreviated “Dementia Friends” training.**

- 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- May 22, 2023 at 4 pm **at the Worcester Senior Center.**
-Adjourn

The City of Worcester/ Division of Elder Affairs does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. The City does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices. Auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities will be provided upon advance request. Please contact Amy Vogel Waters at 508-799-1232 or watersa@worcesterma.gov or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
MARCH 27, 2023 MINUTES

Present: Fran Langille-Chair; Facely Henriquez, Sarah Faucher, Kathan Horne, Thuha Le, Caroline Sullivan, Noreen Shea, Nancy Greenberg, Lovo Koleigo, Tamara Cullen, Benji Kemper, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsorth, Amy Waters

Fran called the meeting to order on zoom at 4:02 pm. Benji Kemper, Center for Living and Working (CLW) community organizer, was introduced as the speaker. He provided information about the housing and transportation initiatives being addressed including working towards increased affordable, accessible housing and on-demand accessible paratransit. This will benefit disabled individuals as well as seniors. Commission members may refer to CLW's committees or participate themselves by contacting bkemper@centerlw.org.

The Commission meeting minutes of February 27th were approved (m/s/a) as was the Report to the Commission from the Senior Center Committee meeting on March 14th (m/s/a).

Amy reported on and the Commission discussed the following: The Department Development Plan Goals have almost all been exceeded as stated in the report; state legislators have received and some have responded to the letter regarding the Council on Aging budget line item for FY'24; a projected tax levy deficit for FY'24 may impede the approval of the Elder Affairs budget request, but the need is acknowledged; Linda and I attending meetings and providing input to help address the housing and homelessness crisis; updating senior center guidebook; senior center participation is high; serving on the Community Health Assessment advisory board to help develop the next Community Health Improvement Plan.

Patty reported on and the Commission discussed the following: Repairs to the walk-in freezer and water heater; DPF landscaper starting soon; Earth Day clean-up in April; AutoLend Library installed and ribbon cutting will be April 3rd; process continuing to address external door by reception desk as well as alarm system issues; St. Patrick's Day event was a huge success; new popular programs included CC Lowell's printmaking class, comedy workshops and the Illusionist; WISE is providing a remote art appreciation program; there will be a hybrid program on estate planning; The last vaccination clinic for the season will be held this month; Commission members were encouraged to RSVP and attend the Volunteer Recognition event in April for which they received an invitation by email from Amy.

Linda reported on and the Commission discussed: the 9 week fall prevention and wellness series starting in April; new Senior Services Vietnamese Elder Group Coordinator is working out well; Attorney and SHINE appointments booked up; Very busy with housing issues as well as SNAP and MassHealth redeterminations.

Caroline will send Linda the ESWA housing packet to assist seniors; Fran brought up issues involving dementia which staff and Commission members discussed; and Lovo asked for an update on Bingo to which Amy replied the Friends has put this fundraising activity on indefinite hold. The Commission was reminded that the next meeting will be at the senior center. The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Senior Center Committee Meeting April 11, 2023

Present: Richard Shea-Chair; Fran Langille; Kathan Horne; Caroline Sullivan; Patty Hainsworth; Amy Waters.

Richard called the meeting to order on zoom at 12:05 pm. The minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for May 9th on zoom.

Amy reported on and the committee discussed: It is expected that by early May we will be informed of the City Manager's recommended FY'24 budget for Elder Affairs which will still need to be approved by the City Council; State COA funding is expected to be at least level; Program evaluations were reviewed for Central MA Housing Alliance's Elder Home Maintenance program, Ascentria's New American Elder Outreach Program, and St. Paul's Elder Outreach program. After consideration the committee voted to recommend:

Contingent on FY'24 funding availability, and with potential adjustments to be made once this availability is clear, the subcontracted elder service programs will receive FY'24 allocations level to FY'23 as follows:

<i>Elder Home Maintenance</i>	<i>\$18,355</i>
<i>New American Elder Outreach</i>	<i>\$24,223</i>
<i>St. Paul's Elder Outreach</i>	<i>\$113,533 (m/s/a)</i>

A new potential developer toured the vacant nurse's residence wing-the Commission will be updated when/if there is further information on their interest; a Health & Human Services reorganization for FY'24 is under consideration; the 9 week falls prevention series started off today and was super!

Patty reported on and the committee discussed: a section of the senior center roof is leaking (again) and will be repaired; replacement of a different roof section is being planned; this month the carpets will be shampooed and floors stripped and waxed; Earth Day volunteers will clean trash from the grounds; the Fitness Center continues to be very popular and maintenance for equipment is being scheduled; a fire drill was conducted with lessons learned; 2 interns continue to be helpful; Auto-Lend Library ribbon cutting went well; CC Lowell art classes are well attended; Joe Fish Fitness has added a day for 2/week; Volunteer Recognition will be held at the end of the month; Upcoming programs for Older Americans month include-MahJongg, Canasta, Walking Club Kick-off, Legal Issues, Assistive Technology, Veteran's Café and the Fit Lot Kick-off.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm (m/s/a).