

DATE: April 15, 2024
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for April 29, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting on **Monday, April 29, 2024, 4 p.m. at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street.**

Members who are unable to attend should contact Amy: watersa@worcesterma.gov.

(Note that this is the 5th Monday of the month instead of the usual 4th Monday)

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
 - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - b. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee meeting report of April 9, 2024

- II. **Presentations:**
 - a. **Ward Abdulky, Ascentria Care Alliance, New Americans-Arabic Elder Group**
 - b. **Tuyet Tran, Southeast Asian Coalition, Food Security Program.**

- 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 20, 2024 at 4 pm, in person at the Worcester Senior Center-front of the lunchroom**
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
March 25, 2024 Minutes

Present: Fran Langille-Chair; Richard Shea, Tamara Cullen, Thuha Le, Sarah Faucher; Noreen Shea; Kathan Horne; Shonee Austracio; Steve Corridori; Roxana Gomez Vargas; Vo Robert; Linda Wincek-Moore; Patty Hainsworth; Amy Waters.

Fran called the meeting to order on TEAMS at 4:03 pm. The members approved the Feb 26, 2024 Commission meeting (m/s/a) and the report of the Senior Center Committee meeting on March 12, 2024 (m/s/a).

Guest speaker, Vo Robert, Director of the St. Paul's Elder Outreach program spoke about the following: outreach is mainly conducted by following up with seniors who were involved in a 911 call; makes home visits when possible, to assess and address needs; the need for grocery delivery is very high now; also high is the need for durable medical equipment; housing continues to be very hard to provide and St. Paul's addresses crisis needs for the unhoused as well as working towards preventing evictions; seniors sign up for their Telecheck program to help them remain safe in their home; steps are taken to prevent falls in the home after an assessment; and St. Paul's serve as the outreach arm for those who can't get to the senior center for help.

Patty discussed the following: Special programs in March included St. Patrick's Day, Appalachian Trail talk, Purposeful Living workshop and taxes; Upcoming program include Polar Beverages talk, Bone Density/Grip Strength, Joe Fusco writer talk, legal terminology, Chinese elder celebration, WRTA travel training and UMASS falls prevention series; the roof is all set including the RTU move to the roof, carpet project almost completed, and fixing kitchen equipment.

Linda discussed the following: Senior Services remains very busy mainly with needs for food, housing and financial assistance; the purposeful living workshop will be presented in Chinese for the group; new senior services assistant coordinating caregiver support group and assisting with SHINE; WRTA provided an overview of travel training for staff; the Fall Prevention/Safety series will be on May 14, 21 and 28, and then will come back for more events in the fall.

Amy highlighted her report including: Status of FY'25 projected city and state funding; have reached 67% of our goal for different programs so far this year; Fitness Center has over 700 members and the evaluation was very positive; continuing to work on tightening security; will be conducting senior center survey the first few weeks of April; 4 tenant licenses are in process; and participation at the Senior Center continues to increase.

Commission members' questions were addressed, and they were reminded to watch for an invitation to the volunteer recognition event to take place on April 24th at 10:30. The meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm (m/s/a).

Report to Commission on Elder Affairs
Senior Center Committee Meeting April 9, 2024

Present: Richard Shea-Chair, Noreen Shea, Kathan Horne, Facely Henriquez, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters

Richard called the meeting to order on TEAMS at 12:03 pm. The next meeting was confirmed for May 14th at noon on TEAMS. The minutes of the March 12th meeting were approved (m/s/a).

In preparation for future allocation discussions, Amy reviewed the program evaluations submitted by: Ascentria New Americans Arabic Elder Group; Central MA Housing Alliance Elder Home Maintenance; St. Paul's Elder Outreach; and Southeast Asian Coalition. Amy also reported on the status of various licenses for space at the senior center. After discussion, the following motions were approved:

- Amy may enter into negotiations for the license for Quinsigamond Community College classroom space which needs to be renewed by July 1, 2024 offering the range of fees and time frames as noted in the April '24 version of the rental chart reviewed. (m/s/a)
- Amy may enter into negotiations for the license for Supreme Master Ching Hai Meditation Association space rental which needs to be renewed by August 1, 2024 offering the range of fees and time frames as noted in the April '24 version of the rental chart reviewed. (m/s/a)
- Amy may offer a one-year extension to the license for the Prime Movement space which needs to be renewed as of August 1, 2024 as noted in the April '24 version of the rental chart reviewed. (m/s/a)

Amy also noted that the RFP has been delayed but will still be coming out for the development of the vacant space in the 26 wing of the building.

Patty reported on the following: meetings held & manual being developed re: strengthening security; leaks being addressed via DPF; Carpet project delayed waiting for materials; community gardens meeting started the planning; Earth Day clean-up; April programs include Polar company presentation, travel training, Joe Fusco talk, Bone Density/Grip Strength, Chinese Festival, Judge talk, volunteer recognition and new virtual programs; African Meal will be served in May and June; May programs include vaccination clinic, wellness series, veteran café, Hope Day for mental health, and outdoor activities; the new Dementia Friendly website is DFworchester.org and there will be a special program on June 11th.

After Amy and Patty addressed various questions, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. (m/s/a).