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Monday, Jul 27, 2020 4:00 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 160 475 9107

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DATE: July 20, 2020

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, July 27, 2020 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 June 22, 2020
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on July 14, 2020 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- August 24, 2020, 4 pm.
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
Minutes-June 22, 2020 via webex

Members Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Richard Pinkes, Caroline Sullivan, Theresa Eckstrom, Chizoma Nosike, Kathan Horne, Richard Shea, Paul Franco, Facely Henriquez, Mariana O'Brien, Nancy Greenberg, Fran Langille, Nghia Le, Noreen Shea.

Staff Present: Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Dawn Skoglund.

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. The minutes of the February 18, 2020 Commission on Elder Affairs meeting were approved. (m/s/a) The Senior Center Committee report on their June 16, 2020 meeting were approved. (m/s/a).

Amy gave the Director's report which brought the Commission up to date on how the Senior Center adapted to the pandemic since mid-march. Highlights included: staff being provided the technology to be able to have full access to their computers to work remotely; utilizing our data base as well as the city's voter registration list to make wellness check phone calls to over 10,000 seniors; working with the staff of the government channel #192 to put a variety of programs on TV as well as online; implementing strict staff accountability measures; managing finances to make a successful transition from FY'20 to '21; working with tenants on access and rent issues; networking with local and state colleagues, and planning for a very careful re-opening-date yet to be determined.

Patty gave the Operations report which addressed safety precautions for those staff/co-locators who must make brief visits to the building; how programming went remote, starting with exercise and moving to entertainment and education; the major volunteer mask making and delivery effort; community gardens planted; new landscaper; progress on "fit lot" and parking lot; Anderson building demolished; and, Dementia Friendly Worcester efforts continue including memory café via zoom.

Linda reported on Senior Services including: thousands of wellness check calls generated much casework to assist seniors with all kinds of needs including applications for mass health, housing, & SNAP, help accessing stimulus checks, HIP deliveries, absentee ballots, and much more; Meals on Wheels has increased to a daily high of 2000; state food commodities are going to St. Paul's pantry and being delivered to seniors; Reassurance calls made to those who need more attention by UMASS Medical students and staff; multicultural group coordinators are facilitating members staying in touch, getting needed help, participating in ESL online and the coordinators are also making wellness calls to seniors outside of their group.

Amy answered questions about the vacant space (one bid is still being evaluated but may need to be rebid), Senior Center as a polling site (no decision has been made yet), and the Heroes Act which Richard S. recommends that the Senate be encouraged to support (Amy will send information to the Commission on this.) Robin confirmed the next meeting will be July 27th at 4 pm and the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm. (m/s/a)

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Senior Center Committee Meeting 7/14/20 via WebEx

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Richard Shea, Caroline Sullivan, Fran Langille, Chizoma Nosike, Patty Hainsworth, Dawn Skoglund, Amy Waters

Robin called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm. The minutes of 6/16/20 were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 8/11/20 at noon.

Finances: Amy reported on and discussed the following with the committee – The FY'21 budget is split into funding sources, estimating that the overall reduction will come from state COA and Friends; There will be revisions to the budget once the amount of funds available and actual expenses become more clear; Amy gave input to the city administration on potential uses of Cares Act funds for which guidelines include Council on Aging expenses due to COVID 19; Contracts are in process for St. Paul's, Ascentria and Central MA Housing Alliance as approved last month; and, Leases remain on hold although there has been discussion about QCC utilizing the kitchen for videos and possibly cultural and/or other meals for curbside pickup.

Operations: Patty reported on and discussed the following with the committee – Catholic Charities is beginning to explore with us the return to work for senior aides; the renovation of the parking lot continues; there is now a concrete slab where the FitLot will be installed; due to renovations there is practically no parking at the Center currently and access is through the front door only, with an appropriate sanitization/check in site; the community gardens are doing well; Remote programming includes concerts, Worcester Art Museum tours, Animal Rescue League, Ecotarium, many exercise programs, music therapy and more; Interactional remote programming includes zoom groups, ESL, group conference calls and more; Dawn reported on her development of a conference call meeting with the gentle aerobics class students, mainly age 85+; assisting with census completion and looking into helping seniors connect with technology.

There was discussion about different issues and questions related to re-opening the building. There will be a walkthrough of the building with an interdisciplinary team next week to begin to evaluate what's feasible. Caroline shared steps that Elder Services has taken. Amy and Patty talked about consultations with various city administrators and the library. Fran suggested that a survey of seniors be taken regarding their interest in coming back to the building. Amy agreed to create one similar to those done for tenants and instructors. Amy will also follow up regarding Cares Act funds to address the isolation caused by the virus via technology and other eligible Council on Aging costs. Members were encouraged to communicate with Amy about any ideas/concerns they have on re-opening or programming as the process continues.

There were no public visitors in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm.