

Elder Affairs Commission invites you to join this Webex meeting.

Meeting number (access code): 160 854 6392

Meeting password: B3Mp6bZCmr2

Monday, August 24, 2020

4:00 pm | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) | 1 hr

Join meeting

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

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DATE: August 17, 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, Aug 24, 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@worchesterma.gov.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
 - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - b. Approval of Commission Minutes of July 27, 2020
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on August 11, 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- September 21, 2020, 4 pm instead of 9/28
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs

July 27, 2020 Minutes

Members Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Richard Shea, Paul Franco, Noreen Shea, Elizabeth Nguyen, Theresa Eckstrom, Kathan Horne, Mariana O'Brien, Chizoma Nosike.

Staff Present: Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Yung Phan

Robin called the meeting to order via WebEx at 4:15. The Minutes of June 22, 2020 were approved (m/s/a) and the Senior Center Committee Report of July 14, 2020 were also approved (m/s/a).

Amy reported on the following: FY'20 city and state allocations almost fully expended; FY'21 budgets will depend on federal reimbursements and other economic impacts; Friends of Worcester's Senior Center remains supportive but has not been able to conduct fundraising activities; There were 12,522 senior contacts made during March-June 2020 and this work continues; St. Paul's Elder Outreach, Ascentria New Americans, & Elder Home Maintenance continue to provide essential services using CDC precautions and their contracts are in place; Elder Services has been delivering between 1000-2000 Meals on Wheels in Worcester since the pandemic; Strong communication/information sharing/assistance provided by various networks including Worcester Together and MCOA; Principal Clerk/receptionist position is still unfilled and frozen; Senior Aides are furloughed with pay via Catholic Charities; much training available to staff; building still not open to tenants but talks continue with QCC about kitchen use for videos and meal preparation; no new movement on developing vacant nurse's residence space; Had initial meeting about reopening the Senior Center which cannot happen until ionization system installed to clean the air and the parking lot is finished; & beginning to plan flu clinics.

Patty reported on the following: parking lot renovation including rain gardens; Fitlot installed; Community Gardens are growing; Tenants come to building only with preauthorization and following strict procedures; Scoop is adapted to meet pandemic needs; Many remote programs on Government Channel 192, Facebook and YouTube including new versions of exercise programs by our fitness instructors, concerts, intergenerational and more to come such as virtual cooking classes, fall prevention and healthy eating; and work on developing more interactive programs.

Yung reported on the various activities to assist the multicultural groups which range from nightly English as a Second Language classes done on zoom to conference calls with over 40 people participating at once. She also reported on the popular farmer's market coupon distribution.

Amy noted that surveys show that approximately 60% of our participants want to return to the Senior Center asap using CDC precautions. 40% are waiting for a reliable vaccine. Re-opening will start slowly with one to one appointments. Commission members thanked the staff for all their work and creative approaches to meet seniors' pressing needs during this difficult period.

Robin confirmed that the next Commission meeting will be held on August 24, 2020 at 4 pm and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm (m/s/a).

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

SENIOR CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING 8/11/20

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Richard Shea, Caroline Sullivan, Chizoma Nosike, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

Robin called the meeting to order on WebEx at 12:05 pm. The minutes of the July 14th meeting were approved (m/s/a). There was discussion about conflicts in upcoming meeting dates. It was decided that the next Senior Center Committee meeting would be Tuesday September 1st at noon and the September meeting of the full Commission would be Monday Sept. 21 at 4 p.m.

Finances: Amy reported on the following- city funding remains stable but there is no word on the amount of state COA funding we will receive though the state sent a memo saying they have changed the process and will be allowing carry over from year to year; CARES Act and CDBG funding was also discussed; we continue to spend conservatively; leases are status quo as tenants have not been allowed to reopen in the Senior Center yet; the parking lot renovation is due to be finished by the end of September.

Operations: Amy reported that a master's level information services intern will work remotely for the fall semester; Patty reported on the following: 3 senior aides may return to help with building services and gardening; An intern has started assisting with Dementia Friendly Worcester; the parking lot is coming along and the fitlot is installed; continuing to finalize quotes on kitchen equipment to be purchased with CDBG funding; almost all the 300 farmer's market coupons have been distributed; we are continuing to connect with seniors through Channel 192, YouTube and Facebook programming; Looking into starting zoom classes such as meditation; Drive Up flu clinics are being planned with CVS and DPH; discussions have started with ESWA and QCC re: bringing back cultural meals; and surveys of instructors and seniors have been informing planning both for more remote programming and eventual reopening.

Amy and Patty reviewed a task chart to update the committee on steps being taken towards reopening the senior center building. Broad categories include: management/policies, signage, Plexiglas, laptops, PPE/cleaning & other supplies, kitchen preparation, HVAC, parking lot, cleaning & safety resources/ideas, and continued remote programs and services. Critical to opening will be installation of updated air filters and an ionization system. Chizoma suggested that we look at purchasing sanitizer stands with automatic dispensers to put in high traffic areas. Caroline reported on basic ESWA safety practices. Amy and Patty will continue to keep the committee apprised.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. (m/s/a)