

DATE: October 18, 2023
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for October 30, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting on **Monday, October 30, 2023, 4 p.m. in person at the Worcester Senior 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 October 2, 2023
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee October 10, 2023 meeting report

- II. **Presentation: Age Friendly Central MA-Connor Robichaud, Regional Projects Manager, Central MA Regional Planning Commission**

- 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- **November 27, 2023 at 4 pm, virtually on TEAMS.**
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
Minutes - October 2, 2023

Present: Fran Langille-Chair, Shonee Austriaco, Facely Henriquez, Kathan Horne, Noreen Shea, Richard Shea, Roxana Gomez Vargas, Sarah Faucher, Stephen Corridori, Thuha Le, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters

Fran called the meeting to order at the Worcester Senior Center at 4 p.m. She welcomed new Commission member, Roxana Vargas Gomez, who introduced herself. A moment of silence honored the memory of deceased Commission member, Caroline Sullivan. The minutes of the June 26, 2023 meeting were approved (m/s/a). The report on the Senior Center Committee meeting of September 12, 2023 were approved (m/s/a).

Amy's report included the following: Making good progress on Department Development Plan goals; FY'24 primary funding includes \$1.06 m. from the city & \$.56 m. from the state; currently 204 different programs this year; elder service contracts in place; assisting with surveys; 2 multicultural coordinators became full time senior services assistants in July; in hiring process for 2 part-time temporary employees to assist with programming and dementia friendly activities; provided stress reduction workshop for kitchen related staff; encouraging immunization and preventive measures to avoid covid, flu, and rsv; all tenant agreements are in place; 3 potential developers toured the vacant nurse's wing; updated website; summer attendance was high; staff remaining active in various relevant committees and organizations. Noreen and Kathan provided additional information on covid tests.

Patty's report included the following: New technology in lunchroom and lobby; roof replacement delayed; landscaper maintaining grounds well; senior volunteer assisting with rain gardens; community gardens wrapping up; HVAC issues continue; new fob system implemented for security; emergency communication clarified; new public facilities work request system; equipped consumer rights office (clarified per Richard's question that this was partially funded by HHS); the path to the FitLot has not been fixed yet (addressing Richard's question); August's largest event was Antique Car Show with food trucks and concert; Distinguished Speakers included cannabis control commissioner, supt. of schools, dermatologist and Red Sox historian; other special programs included ELVIS, coffee talk, vegan trivia, author of book about poet Stanley Kunitz & his mother; ventriloquist; creative writing, comedy workshop, various new wellness programs and a month long/6 program multicultural celebration.

Linda's report included the following: over 9,000 information, referral and advocacy units mainly re: senior center, food, housing and transportation; SHINE calls increased from last year; preparing for Medicare open enrollment & fuel assistance; SEAC providing food from farmers 2/mo. in summer; more yellow tulip planting for mental health awareness; 3 outreach sessions at Abby's House; Elder Home Repair/Maintenance program continues (per Richard's question) and assistance is scarce for snow removal this year.

The passing of Tom Cullinane, former Chair of the Commission on Elder Affairs, was recognized. Fran reminded members that the next meeting is at the Senior Center on October 30th and adjourned today's meeting at 5:10 p.m. (m/s/a)

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Senior Center Committee Meeting October 10, 2023

Present: Richard Shea-Chair, Fran Langille, Kathan Horne, Facely Henriquez, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

Richard called the meeting to order on TEAMS at 12:06 pm. The minutes of the Sept. 12th meeting were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for Nov. 14th at noon on TEAMS.

Amy reported that public and private funding is stable and she reviewed two needed allocations from contingency funds which the Committee voted to approve: An additional \$5,000 is allocated to purchase a combi unit for the kitchen for a total of approximately \$20,000; and \$9,190 is allocated to replace the carpet on the first floor. (m/s/a)

Also discussed was the request of one tenant to downsize. The committee voted to authorize Amy to negotiate with the tenant for a move to a smaller office at an agreed upon rental amount. (m/s/a)

Patty and Amy discussed the hiring process for the two 15 hour/week temporary positions, as well as the intrusion which took place last week which was addressed by increasing security alarm sensor capability. Patty noted that a new “stepper” will be delivered to the gym tomorrow and she described Oct. and Nov. programs including: “Not Just a Jail,” Honest Aging, Folk Music, Beginner’s Osteoporosis Prevention, Better Breathers, Bereavement Support Group, Veterans and Thanksgiving events, Fruitcake alternatives, Robert Goddard talk, and a craft fair. Kathan volunteered to serve Thanksgiving lunch.

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m. (m/s/a)