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Monday, Mar 22, 2021 4:00 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 157 173 8645

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DATE: March 15, 2021
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, March 22, 2021 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 February 22, 2021 meeting
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on March 9, 2021 meeting
- II. **Guest Speaker:** City of Worcester Director of Housing, James Brooks
- 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- April 26, 2021 at 4 pm
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
February 22, 2021 Minutes

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Tamara Cullen, Paul Franco, Richard Shea, Caroline Sullivan, Facely Henriquez, Fran Langille, Mariana O'Brien, Theresa Eckstrom, Kathan Horne, Richard Pinkes, Chizoma Nosike, Nancy Greenberg, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

The meeting was called to order by Robin on Webex at 4 pm. The minutes of the 1/25/21 Commission meeting were approved (m/s/a). The Senior Center Committee Report on the 2/9/21 meeting were approved with a date correction. (m/s/a).

Amy reported on the following: FY'22 budget requests submitted in relation to strategic plan per Senior Center Committee minutes; FY'21 State COA Formula Grant contract is in the signing process; 179 new programs since July; 32,580 senior contacts since start of pandemic in March; February work has centered on supporting the vaccination distribution for which the system remains fluid and the staff is working very hard; Proposed one year licenses have been sent to all tenants who have lapsed leases; and, Central MA Agency on Aging is taking the lead via the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to apply for the Age Friendly Worcester designation. Paul noted that volunteers at Worcester State University clinics have received immunizations.

Patty reported on the following: the remediation and development plans for the fitness center space; the ionization system; Arabic style meals will start weekly as Grab and Go in March; Valentines Day cards sent to over 200 seniors by high school volunteers; Much is planned to celebrate St. Patrick's Day; and, a major Dementia Friendly Worcester event is planned for April.

Linda reported on the following: HIP2GO food program; SHINE volunteer continuing to provide health insurance counseling; Jeremiah's Inn is assisting with some snow shoveling for senior homeowners; Multi-Cultural Elder Groups continue to be supported remotely; and, over 100 Senior Center participants died since the pandemic started, a sad milestone to be recognized.

There was discussion about the importance of listening to people who are distressed by losses and also by the challenge of obtaining vaccinations. There was also discussion about affordable elder housing. Chizoma presented information she learned from the City's website and it was agreed that to be Age Friendly, the City needs a plan to ensure that older city residents can afford to continue to live here. A speaker from the Economic Development Department will be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss this further.

The next meeting was confirmed for 3/22/21 at 4 pm.
The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm. (m/s/a)

Report to Commission on Elder Affairs
Senior Center Committee Meeting 3/9/21

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Caroline Sullivan, Richard Shea, Fran Langille, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

Robin called the meeting to order at noon on webex. The minutes of the 2/9/21 meeting were approved (m/s/a). The date of the next meeting was confirmed for 4/13/21.

Amy reviewed the following with the committee: staff continues to focus on helping seniors get vaccinated as the system remains very difficult to use; a modest capital request was submitted for technology and fitness equipment for programming; FY'21 spending was assessed and ideas for utilization were discussed; additional funds for the CDBG kitchen appliance project should not be needed as the project was downsized due to code and space restrictions; Six tenant leases which had lapsed during the pandemic have been renegotiated as one year licenses, with one executed and the rest in signature process; and two active leases will be amended.

Patty reviewed the following with the committee: the work on the fitness center is progressing, with remediation completed and the renovation out to bid; the ionization air filter system has been installed throughout the building; remote programming continues to go well, with many St. Patrick's Day events this month and in April the highlight is the Alzheimer's forum and speaker; 38 Arabic cultural meals were distributed in the first of this additional weekly grab and go offering on Fridays; and HIP2Go also joins the Asian cultural meals for Thursday's Grab and Go. Caroline reported on Elder Services preparations to vaccinate homebound clients.

There was discussion about reopening the senior center, noting that we've done what we can do to prepare (plexiglass, PPE, ionization, procedures) and will need to take direction from the state and the city administration. Currently the Senior Center is still being utilized as a vaccination clinic. The community garden is expected to operate on a small scale similar to last year.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm. (m/s/a)