

DATE: September 13, 2022
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for September 19, 2022, 4 pm

The next meeting of the **Commission on Elder Affairs** will be held on **Monday, September 19, 2022, 4 p.m. at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street**. Members who cannot attend, 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 27, 2022 meeting
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on Sept. 13, 2022 meeting
- II. Guest Speaker: Dr. Matilde Castiel, MD, Commissioner, Health and Human Services
- 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- **October 24, 2022, 4 p.m., at Senior Center**
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
Minutes June 27, 2022

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Richard Shea, Sarah Faucher, Facely Henriquez, Caroline Sullivan, Thuha Le, Noreen Shea, Richard Pinkus, Fran Langille, Nghia Le, Kathan Horne, Lovo Koliego, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, and Amy Waters.

Robin called the meeting to order on Zoom at 4:00 p.m. She welcomed new Commission member, Sarah, who introduced herself. The minutes of the May 23, 2022 Commission meeting were approved (m/s/a) as was the Senior Center Committee Report of June 14, 2022 (m/s/a).

Amy reported on the following from May/June 2022: there were several more known cases of Covid, with no known spread; 18 new remote programs for an annual total of 139; 8 more Fitlot class hours for a total of 25; City Council approved Elder Affairs budget which includes the full amount needed for the Fitness Center management as well as ordained salary increases; A new medical transportation contract was awarded via purchasing department bid process to HBSS @ \$21/ride; Fallon Health covered over \$900 in fees for participants in fitness programs in honor of Older American's Month in May; provided 360 different programs this year which is 126% of our goal; elder services contracts are in process; Age Friendly Worcester designation received and there is an opportunity to give feedback to the development of the city's master plan on July 7th; Worcester Police Officers provided our staff with training to respond to "Active Shooters" should there be an incident in the building as well as "Stop the Bleed" to be better prepared to attend to any wounded; the Age Friendly Worcester event was covered by Spectrum News TV; 1,406 viewers of the Senior Center facebook page as of June; daily average attendance of registered seniors is 132; and, HHS Commissioner Castiel met with all the multi-cultural elder groups about the pandemic and will be attending September's Commission meeting to provide an update on the pandemic and various HHS issues.

Patty reported on the following: the parking lot has been re-paved and will be re-lined soon; safety signage has been placed around the community gardens; planning a harvest meal with Regional Environmental Council; the opening of the Fitness Center is "very close" and the main staff person, Avery, has been reaching out to potential participants; new technology installation is going well; 3 tercentennial events this month; the new bereavement support group is well attended/needed; and, there will be an antique car show and many other events this summer.

Linda reported on: senior services staff being very busy addressing needs such as housing SNAP, fuel assistance and broad band applications; September will be the first annual month long multicultural celebration; LGBT pride will also be celebrated in Sept.

Richard S. and Robin praised the staff team, with special kudos to Suki, for continuing to provide great programs and services throughout this pandemic year.

The next meeting was confirmed for Sept. 26, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. (m/s/a)

Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs
Senior Center Committee Meeting 9/13/22

Present: Robin Bahr Casey, Fran Langille, Facely Henriquez, Caroline Sullivan,
Amy Waters

Robin called the meeting to order at noon via zoom. Facely was welcomed as a new member of the committee. The minutes of 6/14/22 were approved (m/s/a) and the next meeting was confirmed for 10/11 at noon on zoom.

Amy reported on and the committee discussed the following:

Finances

The FY'23 budget/allocations document had very slight changes from June to reflect actual status; it was noted that the city funding is being expended as planned and while state COA funding is not finalized, spending is not a problem due to carry over availability; if the state is utilizing census estimates as informed verbally, the formula grant will be substantially increased and could be targeted for personnel in FY'24; Lease/licenses are status quo, as is development of the vacant wing;

Operations

Staff continues to successfully juggle duties during gaps caused by vacations and illness; renovations are virtually done with the final items to be in place for the Fitness Center official ribbon cuttings at the end of Oct/early Nov.; The soft opening of the Fitness Center has begun and there are already at least 72 individuals registered/oriented, many of them new to the Senior Center; cleaning issues will be addressed; the summer concert and car show was particularly well attended; multicultural programs are highlighted this month; a tree planting and butterfly release memorial event will take place next week; covid vaccine and flu clinics continue; personal care programs are coming back, eg. manicures, haircuts; The Friends of Worcester's Senior Center, Inc. is slowly rebuilding and is in need of a bookkeeper; It was suggested that a job description be circulated via Linked In and Facebook...Amy will follow up.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm. (m/s/a)