

DATE: Feb 16, 2024
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for February 26, 2024, 4:00 p.m. on TEAMS

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting on **Monday, February 26, 2024, 4 p.m. virtually on TEAMS**. Members who are unable to attend should contact Amy: watersa@worcesterma.gov.

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 280 877 516 033 Passcode: 9EywUi [Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only) [+1 469-998-7682,355021679#](tel:+1469-998-7682,355021679#) U.S. Phone Conference ID: 355 021 679#

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
 - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - b. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee February 13, 2024 meeting report

- II. **Presentation: John W. Odell, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Worcester**

- 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- **March 25, 2024 at 4 pm, virtually on TEAMS.**
-Adjourn

The City of Worcester/ Division of Elder Affairs does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. The City does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices. Auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities will be provided upon advance request. Please contact Amy Vogel Waters at 508-799-1232 or watersa@worcesterma.gov or the ADA Coordinator at disabilities@worcesterma.gov.

Commission on Elder Affairs
Minutes 1.22.24

Present: Fran Langille-Chair; Facely Henriquez; Kathan Horne; Noreen Shea; Richard Shea; Roxana Gomez Vargas; Sarah Faucher; Tamara Cullen; Thuha Le; Linda Wincek-Moore; Patty Hainsworth; & Rachel Brown.

Fran Langille called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. She welcomed everyone and introduced the guest speaker, Rachel Shannon Brown, Senior Supervising Attorney, Community Legal Aid. Rachel spoke about the services Legal Aid provides, including eligibility and other resources. She also shared information about the current requests for help they're seeing including housing issues, especially evictions, as well as Medicare and Social Security issues.

The Commission voted to approve the minutes from November 27, 2023, as well as the Report from the January 9, 2024 Senior Center Committee meeting (m/s/a).

Patty reported that the YTD number of different programs onsite is 123% of the goal, and the most recent number of participants who have joined the fitness center brings the participant number to 622. Patty also reported: Interagency collaborations included contact from Worcester Native Plants which is interested in applying for a grant to add plants to the senior center rain gardens; the first budget meeting took place recently regarding the FY 25 tax levy budget; program highlights including the Bone Density and Grip Strength Screening with Fallon Health as well as the successful Distinguished Speaker Series with Elizabeth Chen, Secretary of Elder Affairs; Building and grounds issues included an update on the status of the new roof install which had some leakage issues as well as the new cubicle installation made to accommodate new staff and interns; several staff and tenants completed CPR and First Aid training by the COW's Safety Officer; and supervisors were trained in new personnel policies re: time paid off.

Linda reported on rolling out a new on-call and online system for senior services records aimed to enhance efficiency. Linda also reported on a new intern from QCC expected to start this week. It was also reported that Dr. Castiel, HHS Division head and State Elder Affairs housing expert will work together to identify any potential developers for the 1926 wing.

Fran Langille confirmed the next meeting for February 26th 4 pm and adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm (m/s/a).

Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs
Senior Center Committee Meeting February 13, 2024

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

Richard called the virtual meeting to order at 12:02 pm on TEAMS. The next meeting was confirmed for March 12th at noon on TEAMS. The minutes of the January 9th meeting were approved (m/s/a).

Amy reported on and the committee discussed the following: Funding is stable and the Elder Affairs FY'25 budget request will be discussed with the City Manager on March 11th; Program allocation budget is amended to show a lower cost for the carpet project; Some of the remaining contingency funding may be expended on various security devices; The law and purchasing departments of the city were consulted on how to proceed with tenant agreements and a conclusion was reached as advised by the Deputy City Solicitor that continuing with license agreements instead of leases would be correct as a license gives an entity permission to conduct certain activities as opposed to having exclusive right to use the building; Committee members made and approved 4 motions which authorizes Amy to negotiate with 4 tenants regarding their licenses within an established range for fees and terms (m/s/a); Regarding development of the vacant space, Dr. Castiel and Amy are scheduled to meet with the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs housing expert this week; and the new Senior Services Assistant is working out well.

Patty reported on and the committee discussed the following: New carpets were installed this past weekend and the project will be finished soon; a recent minor gas leak was addressed by the Fire Dept. and fixed by Eversource; Alarm issues prompted a meeting with representatives of the Senior Center, Public Facilities, Police, and QCC to look at additional security measures; special programs included one about bank fraud which was well attended despite being rescheduled for snow, Black History concert with a special African Meal developed by QCC, Lunar New Year, Barbie movie with exhibit and discussion, and Elvis is performing tomorrow for Valentine's Day; March brings the popular St. Patrick's Dave event as well as the restart of Friends trips and other special programs; and tax preparation services are going well via AARP.

Richard reminded everyone of the revised Commission meeting schedule and adjourned the meeting at 12:55 pm (m/s/a).