

**Elder Affairs Commission is inviting you to a scheduled Webex meeting.**

Monday, January 25, 2021 4:00 pm

Join meeting

**Join by meeting number**

Meeting number (access code): 180 499 2655

Meeting password: 9cEy5bji2xy

**More ways to join:**

**Join from the meeting link**

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**Join by phone**

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DATE: January 16, 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, January 25, 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](mailto:WatersA@worcesterma.gov).

**BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
  - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - b. Approval of Commission Minutes of November 23, 2020
  - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on January 12, 2021 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- February 22, 2021 at 4 pm

## -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](mailto:watersa@worcesterma.gov) or the ADA Coordinator at [disabilities@worcesterma.gov](mailto:disabilities@worcesterma.gov)

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### **Commission on Elder Affairs Minutes 11/23/20**

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Richard Pinkes, Richard Shea, Noreen Shea, Paul Franco, Caroline Sullivan, Facely Henriquez, Theresa Eckstrom, Kathan Horne, Mariana O'Brien; Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters, Duncan Calder.

Robin called the meeting to order via WebEx at 4:05 pm. The minutes of the 10/26/20 Commission meeting was approved (m/s/a) and the Report from the 11/9/20 Senior Center Committee was approved (m/s/a).

Amy reported on the following: Both the state house and senate approved level funding for Councils on Aging formula grants, however it still needs to be passed by the conference committee and Governor; 44% of our different program goal has been met and staff continue to make thousands of contacts with seniors; an official system has been implemented which allows up to 50% of FTE staff to work in the building following all COVID precautions; the City Manager approved negotiations with tenants about their leases and rental fees; QCC's license for the diner/kitchen is in process and the YWCA lease is fully executed; have not heard yet whether a viable bid has been submitted to develop the 26 wing nurses residence; we are assisting various survey information to be collected from our diverse seniors to aid in needs assessment, issues regarding a future vaccine and access to healthcare; and a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) meeting took place in which making Age Friendly Worcester a strategic goal was discussed. There was further discussion about the tenants.

Amy introduced Duncan Calder, an intern in the Masters in Information Technology program at Clark who has been working for the Senior Center this semester. He presented information about the reach of our Facebook and YouTube posts during the pandemic. This information will help guide future programming for impact.

Patty reported on: plexiglass being installed at the senior center; hvac issue was resolved; new tenant has started; part of the 26 wing will be remediated; there is a new fence as part of the parking lot renovation; many wonderful programs continue remotely via many partnerships; Doherty High students are volunteering time to help us send 600 holiday cards to frequent participants at the senior center; 40-50 cultural meals are distributed weekly on Thursdays and QCC has also started Grab and Go meals on Fridays. Per Facely's request, Patty will be in touch when more school volunteers are needed.

Linda reported on the sand bucket project which also includes a fire and fall prevention check and assistance if needed; Senior Services continue to assist individuals and are very busy with

fuel assistance and SNAP applications; and multicultural elder group coordinators are staying in close touch with their members via phone and computer.

Robin and other members expressed thanks to the Senior Center staff and a Happy Holiday season to all. Robin confirmed that unless there is an emergent issue earlier, the next meeting will be 1/25/2021. The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m. (m/s/a)

### **Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs Senior Center Committee Meeting 1/12/21**

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

The meeting was called to order by Robin via webex at 12:05 pm. The minutes of 11/10/20 were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for 2/9/21 at noon.

Finances: Amy reviewed and the committee discussed the following: status of city and state funding; projected spending leaving at least \$18,012 available for reallocation currently; a review of the CDBG kitchen appliance project; a review of the proposal received from the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA; the status of current tenants with which Amy is working in consultation with the law dept; and the bid received to develop the vacant 26 wing. A motion was made and approved to:

*Allocate \$5,000 to the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA to support the delivery of food to seniors for approximately 8 weeks during the pandemic. (m/s/a)*

A second motion was made to:

*Allocate up to \$13,000 to supplement the \$36,000 Community Development Block Grant to purchase all 4 proposed appliances including installation and take-away, with the caveat that the lowest priority, the electric combi oven, would be dropped if there were still not enough funds, to be revisited at a later date. (m/s/a)*

Operations: Patty reviewed and the committee discussed the following: remediation of hazmat in the area to be the fitness center is in process; work has started to install the ionization air filters in the RTU's; a boiler valve was repaired; senior aides are not currently assisting building services due to the heightened risk of covid; students are making valentine cards for seniors at home; plans are being made to provide tax preparation assistance to seniors via AARP at the Senior Center using covid precautions as approved by the City Manager; Grab and Go meals and HIP 2 Go deliveries continue to assist seniors who need food; Remote programming continues on TV Channel 192, Facebook and YouTube; various interactive zoominars are taking place; and Dementia Friendly Worcester is planning an event for April '21.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm (m/s/a)