

DATE: November 18, 2022
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for November 28, 2022, 4 pm

The **Commission on Elder Affairs** meeting will be held on **Monday, November 28, 2022, 4:00 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 Oct. 24, 2022 meeting
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on Nov. 8, 2022 meeting
- II. Presentation on Technology at the Worcester Senior Center-Jim Crochiere, Technology Program Assistant
- 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- **January 23, 2023 4 p.m., at Senior Center (no regular December meeting)**
 - Adjourn- Best wishes for the holiday season!

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Commission on Elder Affairs

October 24, 2022 Minutes

Members Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Caroline Sullivan, Facely Henriquez, Fran Langille, Kathan Horne, Lovo Koliego, Nancy Greenberg, Noreen Shea, Richard Pinkes, Richard Shea, Sarah Faucher, Stephen Corridori, Tamara Cullen, Thuha Le

Staff Present: Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Suki Lapin, Jenny Linch, Lindita Taka, Jim Crochiere, Dawn Skoglund, Carmen Webb, Wei Shi, Andrew Davis.

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm in the new Wellness Center on the 2nd floor of the Senior Center. The minutes of the Sept. 19th Commission meeting were approved (m/s/a). The report from the Oct. 11th Senior Center Committee meeting were approved (m/s/a).

Senior Center Committee members assisted Amy to recognize full and part-time staff for their contributions during the height of the pandemic as well as their ongoing excellent work. Robin recognized outgoing Commission members, Richard P. and Nghia. The Commission joined Amy to recognize and thank them as well as Robin Bahr Casey for her 13 years of dedicated service and leadership.

Amy reported on and the Commission discussed the following: we are on track for meeting or exceeding Department Development Plan goals, including most impressively the Fitness Center has over 150 active participants; Friends received \$2000 from Country Bank; Department of Public Facilities is working on an "existing conditions" report as well as recommendations for development of the vacant nurse's residence wing; average daily attendance for September 22 is only 1 % less than the same period pre-pandemic; and, With the help of our support letters to MCOA on behalf of Elder Services of Worcester Area, they were awarded two grants to improve behavioral health services for seniors in our region which will add a behavioral health case manager and a Spanish speaking clinician.

Patty reported on and the Commission discussed the following: The new chairs and tables in this room are examples of the furnishings which are slowly coming in for the Fitness/Wellness Center; the external door to the reception area is still waiting replacement; various technology is still being tweaked; the steamer in the kitchen broke and is being assessed; incident of all external doors being stuck in locked or unlocked position seems to be resolved; ribbon cuttings are all set for the Fitness and Wellness Centers; Multicultural Month in September was very successful and will be illustrated in a poster as well as hanging the Diversity Tree created; Tuesday was an example of a very busy day including two clinics, 2 new exercise classes, coat distribution by Sheriff's office, antique appraisals and more; Cara Brindisi's concert was well attended by adoring fans who are following her on The VOICE...she will give another holiday concert this December; November signature programs include Veterans Day and Thanksgiving events; there will be a Real ID workshop; and, the Scoop newsletter is reduced to 12 pages but will hopefully be restored to 16 once the publisher secures more advertisers.

Linda reported on and the Commission discussed the following: Open enrollment is keeping SHINE counselors and staff very busy; already have received many fuel assistance application requests...Thuha offered to work with WCAC and Community HELP to facilitate the application process through bi-directional referrals; UMASS Medical's Population Health clerkship is underway; attended MCOA conference; and, working with Robin/NAMI to plant 1000 yellow tulips at the Senior Center to create an anti-stigma campaign for people with mental illness. Richard S. shared information about a fall prevention technique advertised online. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm (m/s/a)

REPORT TO COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Senior Center Committee Meeting November 8, 2022

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

Richard called the meeting to order on zoom at 12:02 pm. The minutes of Oct. 11, 22 were approved (m/s/a). The next regular meeting was confirmed for January 10, 2023 on zoom.

Amy reported on and the committee discussed the following: 1st quarter city budget meeting went well; full FY'23 state COA funding has been received; reviewed allocations spreadsheet noting additional state funding and city funded to be reallocated instead of spending on Grandpads this year; strategized about one-time spending this year in order have funds available to expand services in the future, especially senior services due to a 27% increase in the city's senior population from 2010 and a 58% increase in units of assistance provided comparing FY'22 to pre-pandemic; proposal reviewed to request full time employee positions instead of temporary part-time multi-cultural elder group coordinator positions; also reviewed potential expenditures for kitchen steamer, computer lab chairs, 1 more computer for lab plus CD player, lap top for streaming services, folding lap top shelves to avoid trip hazards, privacy seats, interactive board & table games, TV for Wellness Center, additional signage, basic needs assistance, Older Americans Month vouchers for more expensive programs, one-time special programs, community garden water system & fencing, picnic table & seating, and various building needs not yet addressed by Dept of Public Facilities. Committee members were invited to provide additional feedback this month regarding potential spending this year as well as requests for next year. It was also suggested that senior participants be surveyed about what they'd like to see for the senior center if there were resources available.

Patty reported on and the committee discussed the following: Fitness Center furnishings are still in the delivery and installation process; upgraded msc swipe stations will be installed next week; the ribbon cuttings for the Fitness and Wellness Centers went well; over 170 active participants in Fitness Center; Major Veteran's Day event tomorrow; Thanksgiving also a signature event this month; will be a REAL ID program which will be videoed for Channel 192; and, December will be filled with holiday concerts, decorating and crafts.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm (m/s/a).