

DATE: September 16, 2024
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for September 23, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting on **Monday, September 23, 2024, 4 p.m. at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street.**

Members who are unable to attend should contact Amy: watersa@worcesterma.gov.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
 - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - b. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2024
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee meeting report of September 10, 2024

- 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- **October 28, 2024 at 4 pm, in person at the Worcester Senior Center-front of the lunchroom**
-Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs-Minutes-June 24, 2024

Present: Fran Langille-Chair; Shonee Austriaco; Facely Henriquez; Kathan Horne; Lovo Koliego; Noreen Shea; Roxana Gomez Vargas; Steve Corridori; Tamara Cullen; Ted Biba; Thuha Le; Linda Wincek-Moore; Patty Hainsworth; Amy Waters; Peter Dunn; Paul Morano.

Fran called the meeting to order at the Worcester Senior Center at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of the May 21, 2024 Commission meeting were approved (m/s/a). The report on the Senior Center Committee meeting of June 11, 2024 was approved (m/s/a). As the main speakers were to be late, Fran skipped to staff reports on the agenda.

Amy highlighted her report as follows: Outcomes of FY'24 Department Development Plan goals included 312 different programs on site, 783 Fitness Center participants, 160 different videos on cable TV, 298 on YouTube, 30% participants registered BIPOC; and 76% participants registered non-neighborhood residents; City Council approved 3% increase for our FY'25 budget; FY'25 elder service contracts are being processed; increasing hours to 19/wk was approved for dementia friendly coordinator and program assistant temporary pool positions; Verizon cell tower lease extended for a year; attendance continues to increase; received media attention for serving as an emergency shelter, raising the LGBT flag and for our intern interview; assisting state to gain input into Age Friendly MA plan; supporting Dept of Transportation & Mobility's work on ADA plan and Vision Zero.

Patty reported on: programs such as Oral Health, Artist Reception; Safe Driving Course; History of the Bicycle; Calligraphy; Chair Volleyball; concerts and the upcoming Christmas in July and car show; thanked Commission members for participating in the Dementia Friendly event with more to come; WSC closed to become an emergency shelter for 5 days for fire victims; serving as cooling center during business hours; carpets have been cleaned and the project of stripping/waxing the floors started; and the rain gardens are being refreshed via a grant through REC.

Peter Dunn and Paul Morano of the Economic Development Department were introduced. They talked about the request for proposals to develop approximately 50,000 square feet of vacant senior center space. The proposals, due June 26th, will be rated on the bidder's experience, reuse purpose with preference for senior housing, # of units, financial plan, schedule, utility separation plan, low carbon footprint, and historic preservation plan. The city is proposing a 90-year lease for a minimum of \$5,000/year. Commission members' questions were answered, and Fran expressed appreciation for this effort, hope for viable senior housing to result, and offered the Commission's support in any way possible.

Linda reported on: intern; SHINE is still busy; Brazilian senior group; multi-cultural day being planned for Oct; Medicare Savings Program and Farmer's Market Coupons. The meeting adjourned for the summer at 5:00 p.m. (m/s/a)

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Senior Center Committee – September 10, 2024

Present: Richard Shea, Chair; Kathan Horne; Noreen Shea; Facely Henriquez; Patty Hainsworth; Amy Waters

Richard called the meeting to order in Teams at 12:07 pm. The minutes for June 11, 2024 were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for Teams on October 8, 2024 at noon.

Amy reported on and the committee discussed the following: funding is stable; the '25 allocation budget was adjusted to show the COA formula increase to \$15/elder as well as other adjustments to reflect actuals; and space licenses and contracts are in place except for waiting on the state's version of QCC licenses.

She reported that the development process of the vacant building continues. Two bids from non-profit organizations are under consideration: 1) Worcester Community Housing Resources, partnering with Senior Connections (formerly CMAA; and 2) Rogerson Communities. The City's Economic Development Department submitted additional questions for clarification to each bidder. The final evaluation is expected to be completed by October, 2024.

Patty reported on and the committee discussed the following: Great summer programming included Christmas in July, Railroad in Song, Thoreau talk, Alzheimer's talk, new chair yoga and volleyball, classic car show, Isabella Gardner Heist talk, Paw Parade, Aging & Alcohol, and summer concert series; September brings the fall prevention program as well as the Abby Kelly Foster play; Community Gardens are wrapping up; Fitness Center participants over 850; and DPF is preparing to paint and repair the restrooms. In response to Richard's question, Patty reported that most participants are using their cards to swipe in.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. (m/s/a)