

DATE: January 15, 2025  
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties  
FROM: Noreen Shea, Chair  
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for January 27, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting on **Monday, January 27, 2025, 4 p.m. – virtual via Teams: [Join the meeting now](#)**

Meeting ID: 297 562 358 847 Passcode: WynCng

**Dial in by phone** [+1 469-998-7682,,107180087#](#) U.S.Phone conference ID: 107 180 087#

Members who are unable to attend should contact Amy: [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 Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2024
  - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee meeting report of January 14, 2025
- II. **Guest Speaker: Laura LeBlanc, Protective Services Department Manager, Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc.**
- 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- **February 24, 2025 at 4 pm, virtual 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](mailto:watersa@worcesterma.gov) or the ADA Coordinator at [disabilities@worcesterma.gov](mailto:disabilities@worcesterma.gov).

## Worcester Commission on Elder Affairs-November 25, 2024 Minutes

Present: Fran Langille-Chair, Richard Shea, Shonee Austriaco, Chizoma Nosike, Lovo Koliego, Matthew Torrey, Noreen Shea, Olanike Ojelabi, Roxana Gomez Vargas, Sarah Faucher, Tamar Cullen, Ted Bib, Thuha Le, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters and Boston Globe reporter: Paul Singer

Fran called the virtual meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. on Teams. The members approved the minutes of the Commission meetings of September 23 and October 28 (m/s/a); The members also approved the Reports from the Senior Center Committee of October 8 and November 12<sup>th</sup> (m/s/a).

Amy shared some thanksgiving remarks and thanked Fran and Richard, outgoing chairs of the Commission and its Senior Center Committee respectively. Everyone present introduced themselves, including 3 newly appointed members, Chizoma, Matthew and Olanike (Nike). Paul Singer from the Boston Globe noted that he was attending to educate himself on senior issues and come up with potential storylines.

Amy reviewed the following from her monthly report: We are doing well with our Dept. Development Plan Goals; received notice of a posthumous donation of over \$39,000; interviewed potential volunteer nurse to take blood pressures; Rogerson Communities was selected as the preferred developer of the vacant space and have 120 days for due diligence prior to moving forward with the project which proposes to create approximately 100 senior housing units; activity in the building was higher than usual in part due to serving as an early voting site; a new State Secretary of Elder Affairs, Robin Lipson, was appointed by the Governor; and, feedback from the State surveys responded to in Worcester to help refresh the plan for Age Friendly Massachusetts indicates the importance of senior centers.

Patty reviewed the following: Working on additional signage to increase safety outside; repairs made on kitchen plumbing and DPF is renovating bathrooms on the first floor; tomorrow's Thanksgiving event is set to be one of the biggest events of the year; Intergenerational Veteran's Day event was very successful; had a beautiful Diwali dance performance; Stroke Education presented by UMass Memorial; Over 300 cards written and sent to Navy ship; December holidays will be mainly celebrated with music including local star, Cara Brindisi; Dementia Friendly Worcester is meeting every other month and the website and newsletter have been updated; and, working with the Genesis Club to develop & fill a position to help with transportation and meals.

Linda reviewed the following: SHINE counselors have been very busy with Medicare open enrollment ending December 7<sup>th</sup>; helping many with fuel assistance and housing issues; there is very little volunteer help available for snow shoveling but are working with seniors to help them find solutions; and St. Paul's is assisting with distribution of Thanksgiving meals and food baskets.

Fran, Richard and others shared messages of gratitude. The next meeting was confirmed for January 27, 2025 at 4 pm on Teams. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm (m/s/a).

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS  
Senior Center Committee - January 14, 2025

Present: Noreen Shea & Facely Henriquez, Co-Chairs; Lovo Koleigo; Tamara Cullen; Steve Corridori; Patty Hainsworth; Amy Waters; and Tina Langil.

Noreen called the meeting to order on Teams at 12:05 p.m. The minutes of the 11.12.24 meeting was approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for 2.11.25 at noon on Teams. Tina was introduced as the city's grants writer who came to the meeting to learn more about how she may be able to assist.

Amy reviewed the following: Tax levy budget request process and considerations for FY'26; planning conservatively for use of State COA funding; bid process for fitness center management and special transportation services; capital requests for the senior center building being proposed by the Dept. of Public facilities; licenses for space usage/tenants; Rogerson Communities in due diligence period assessing the development feasibility for the vacant nurses residence as senior housing; and, Ascentria is in the process of hiring a new Arabic Elder Group Coordinator.

Patty reviewed the following: Our long-time building services custodian no longer works at the senior center but we continue to receive help; working with vendor and QCC re: combi unit problems; leaks fixed in kitchen; boiler replaced; holiday programs were very special and fun; Distinguished Speakers in January address nutrition and age-friendly health systems; Jimmy Buffett tribute concert on Wed; Elvis in February along with cardiologist talk for Valentines Day; upcoming comedy programs; and African American History Month speaker will be Gloria Hall, art preservationist.

Lovo asked about when salaries might be increased and Amy replied July. Tamara and others expressed support for salary increases.

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