

DATE: April 19, 2022
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for April 25, 2022, 4 pm

The next meeting of the **Commission on Elder Affairs** will be held on **Monday, April 25, 2022 at 4 pm 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 March 28, 2022 meeting
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report- April 21, 2022 meeting (to be distributed and reviewed at 4/25/22 Commission 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- **May 23, 2022** at 4 pm
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs--Minutes – March 28, 2022

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Facely Henriquez, Fran Langille, Lovo Koliego, Noreen Shea, Richard Pinkes, Richard Shea, Tamara Cullen, Thuha Le, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

Robin called the meeting to order at the Worcester Senior Center at 4:05. Introductions were made welcoming new member, Lovo. The minutes of the February 28, 2022 meeting were approved (m/s/a). The March 8, 2022 Senior Center committee report was accepted (m/s/a).

Patty reported on and the Commission discussed the following: Commission members are encouraged to partake of this year's volunteer recognition "grab & go;" the fitness center renovation is progressing; the cleaning company is working new hours during the day to help with the gap left by the 3 senior aides who are no longer placed here; the front door has been repaired; landscaping is set to start; St. Patrick's Day events went well; in April there will be a hybrid program on Mahjong in cooperation with the JCC; two shred events are planned; Fallon Health's donation is funding free exercise in honor of Older American's Month; we are hosting the Age Friendly Worcester Kickoff May 11th; & the Fraud Squad players will perform May 18th.

Amy reported on and the Commission discussed the following: In response to a positive covid case being reported this month, staff worked with DPH on contact tracing, notifications and distribution of test kits; the FY'23 budget will be reviewed with the City Manager on March 31st; the Commission reviewed and voted to approve a letter from the City Manager, Commission and Division of Elder Affairs to state legislators regarding the state coa budget line item with the following addition: *An increase in the number of older adults coupled with the rising costs of goods and services, indicate increased needs and thus a higher formula rate should be considered.* (m/s/a); Members encouraged each other to contact legislators on this individually, also; a request for proposal has been developed for medical paratransit; Organized a plan to expend the Fallon Health donation and confirmed with instructors; 273 different programs have been provided since July-95% of this year's goal; Technology Assistant helping many seniors on a wide range of issues, including the ending of 3G services; all Commission and staff have submitted acknowledgement of policy receipts; participation is building however it remains 31% lower than FY'19 for the same time period in March; support continues for the CHIP and Age Friendly Worcester work, and recognition of the City Manager who is ending his tenure in May will take place at the May 11th event at noon.

Robin spoke about the City's campaign to end the stigma of mental illness; Lovo also discussed educational efforts for mental health month in May.

Linda reported on and the Commission discussed the following: outreach at Worcester Housing Authority buildings is bringing new participants; senior services is very busy and assisting with housing is especially difficult; a new worker was hired by Central MA Housing Alliance for the Elder Home Repair/Maintenance program; in response to Richard S's question about refugees, Linda replied that when the Afghani and Ukrainian refugees first arrive, they receive services from resettlement agencies but that the Senior Center will assist when needed.

Robin announced the event to be held tomorrow at Elm Park to unveil a plaque in memory of Worcester residents who were lost in the pandemic.

The meeting adjourned. (m/s/a)