

DATE: June 18, 2020
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, June 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. via webex:**

Join meeting

Join by phone

Tap to call in from a mobile device (attendees only)

[+1-415-655-0001](tel:+14156550001) US Toll

Meeting number (access code): 160 267 8110

Meeting password: sjBHSCHh748

**Commission on Elder Affairs June 22, 2020 4:00 p.m.
BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
 - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - b. Approval of Commission Minutes of February 18, 2020
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on June 16, 2020 meeting
- II. Elder Affairs Staff Reports
 - a. Director's Report: Managing during the pandemic
 1. the operational pivot
 2. finances
 3. next steps
 - b. Senior Center Operations Director Report
 1. remote programming
 2. masks, community gardens, building & grounds
 3. Dementia Friendly Worcester
 - c. Manager of Senior Services & Education Report
 1. wellness checks & reassurance calls
 2. Multi-cultural groups
 3. case management strategies & issues addressed
- III. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
 - comments &/or questions from Commission members
 - comments from others-up to 2 minutes each
 - confirm next meeting-July 27, 2020, 4 pm?
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
February 24, 2020 Minutes

Members Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Caroline Sullivan, Chizoma Nosike, Facely Henriquez, Fran Langille, Kathan Horne, Mariana O'Brien, Nghia Le, Noreen Shea, Paul Franco, Richard Pinkes, Richard Shea.
Members Absent: Elizabeth Nguyen, Nancy Greenberg. Excused-Theresa Eckstrom.
Others Present: Staff- Yung Phan, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Amy Waters.
Guest-Ethan Belding-CMAA

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. She introduced new Commission members, Facely and Noreen. The Commission minutes of 1/27/20 were approved (m/s/a) and the Senior Center Committee report was accepted (m/s/a). Robin reminded members about the census orientation trainings on March 4th and 5th and asked members to join Fran and Kathan who had already signed up to attend.

Amy introduced Yung Phan, Multicultural and Senior Services Coordinator at the Senior Center. Amy and Yung presented a mini-version of the workshop they developed for an MCOA conference. They spoke about why it is worth the effort to create a multicultural senior center and shared some of their methods and experiences of doing so. Part of the presentation was showing a video created by MCOA to tell the story of participants of our Vietnamese Elder Group. Yung invited Commission members to attend the monthly multi-cultural group coordinator's meetings to learn more. Chizoma spoke of her many years of observations at the Senior Center and acknowledged the successful efforts to help seniors of all backgrounds to accept differences and enjoy new connections and activities. Other Commission members also voiced their support.

Amy briefly reviewed the February update and addressed Commission members on the following topics: FY'21 operating and capital budget requests; rain garden grant to enhance the parking lot, MCOA cultural grant; Retired Men's Club of Greendale contribution; potential AARP grant for a FitLot; Nursing Home Ombudsman Program; cost estimate of opioid crisis; staff promotions and Clerk/Receptionist opening; decrease in Senior Aides' hours; the extension of the deadline for bids to develop the vacant wing of the building, the design work on the parking lot and fitness center; publicity and collaborations.

Patty reported on programs such as the very successful Valentine's Day event with a cardiologist speaking and "Elvis" entertaining as well as upcoming events such as St. Patrick's Day, Variety Show, Earth Day and Volunteer recognition. She also reported that Dementia Friendly Worcester efforts continue and there will be a speaker in June. In addition, starting in March multi-cultural meals will be offered 4 days/week. She noted that the kitchen passed inspection, landscaping is out to bid, and the community gardens are getting organized.

Linda introduced Ethan Belding from Central MA Agency on Aging with whom she is working on census outreach. She also reported on tax preparation assistance, the LGBTQ 60+ support/social group and the Health Fair being organized for April.

The next meeting was confirmed for March 23rd. The meeting adjourned at 5 pm (m/s/a)

Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs

Worcester Senior Center Committee 6/16/20 via webex

Members Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Caroline Sullivan, Richard Shea, Chizoma Nosiki, Fran Langille.

Staff Present: Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, Dawn Skoglund, Jennifer Linch

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Robin. The minutes of the February 2020 meeting were approved as distributed (m/s/a). The minutes of the March 2020 meeting were approved as distributed (m/s/a)

Patty gave a brief update on operations during the pandemic including: staff and volunteers have made over 10,000 wellness check calls to Worcester seniors and many of them have been referred to senior services for assistance; staff and volunteers (including UMASS Medical Students) have been making reassurance buddy calls to seniors who request it; volunteers have made and distributed hundreds of masks; staff and volunteers are assisting with HIP food deliveries; The community garden has been planted by staff and volunteers; many wonderful programs have been developed & video'd for viewing on cable channel 192 as well as online; all CDC and city regulations are adhered to carefully to prevent the spread of the virus. Members praised the staff for providing needed services during the pandemic.

Amy reviewed three **FY'21 allocations** scenarios with the committee, which voted to recommend the following contingent upon available funding:

1)Af Amer Elder Coord.	\$4,441
2)Club 60+ Latino Elder Group Coord.	\$21,094
3)Computer lab	\$4,850
4)Chinese Elder/Respite	\$21,094
5)Elder Home Maint.	\$17,995
6)Eld O.R. St.Pauls	\$111,308
7)Eld O.R. Ascentria	\$23,748
8)ESWA Nutrition	\$5,315
9)Fitness/Wellness Programs	\$11,695
10)Interpreters	\$10,000
11)Transportation	\$14,000
12) age/dementia friendly	\$8,400
13) walking club	\$1,731
14)landscaping	\$4,500
15)COA Personnel	\$178,913
16)Dues/Training	\$4,520
17)2% COA Admin. Fee	\$7,006
18)Fee Subsidies,Programs,Supplies	\$11,000
19)Contingency	<u>\$7,248</u>
TOTAL	\$468,858 = 2.5% below FY'20 level (m/s/a)

Richard made a motion that the Commission on Elder Affairs request that the City Manager support a communication to federal and state legislators to approve the CARES Act to ensure adequate funding to serve the city's older population. (m/s/a) See attached draft.

There was discussion on factors involved in re-opening the Senior Center building, and it was noted that Amy and Patty will be meeting with various city personnel to plan for this. Amy reported that the Anderson Building has been demolished and trees have been removed to make way for the parking lot renovation.

With input from the committee members and staff, Robin scheduled the next meeting of the committee scheduled for 12 noon on Tuesday July 14, 2020. It will be determined at a later date, whether it will be via webex or in person. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. (m/s/a)