

DATE: June 16, 2023
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for June 26, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting on **Monday, June 26, 2023, 4 p.m. in person at the Worcester Senior Center, 2nd floor Wellness Center, 128 Providence Street, Worcester MA 01604.** Members who are unable to attend should contact Amy at 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 May 22, 2023
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee June 13, 2023 meeting report

- II. Presentation: **Robin Schwartz, Consumer Rights Program Manager will discuss this Attorney General's Office funded program, now based at the Worcester Senior Center.**

- 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- **Propose Oct 2, 2023 at 4 pm at the Worcester Senior Center.** (Instead of the 4th Monday, Sept 25th which is a Jewish High Holy Day)
-Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
Minutes May 22, 2023

Present: Fran Langille-Chair; Shonee Austriaco; Facely Henriquez; Kathan Horne; Noreen Shea; Richard Shea; Sarah Faucher; Tamara Cullen; Amy Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek-Moore; Leah Wickman.

Fran called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at the Worcester Senior Center. Members approved the minutes of the April 24, 2023 Commission meeting (m/s/a) as well as the Report on the Senior Center Committee meeting of May 9, 2023 (m/s/a).

Guest speaker, Leah Wickman, Wellness Director of Worcester Fitness, presented information about the first 9 months of operation of the Senior Center's Fitness Center. She reviewed the credentials of leadership and staff of the organization as well as their commitment to the community and excellent customer service. She thanked the Commission for supporting this unique model which provides state of the art equipment and full-time expert guidance without fees for seniors. She discussed how using each machine supports seniors with their activities of daily living and also described the 5 group classes offered. She noted that as of today, there are 396 active members and an average of 28 visits/day. Leah quoted various participant's positive testimonials about the center and affirmed her commitment to maintain an environment which supports seniors' wellbeing.

Amy highlighted various items in the goals and objectives report: We have surpassed almost all of this year's Department Development Plan goals; Friends received a generous donation from an estate; the City Council budget hearing will be held tomorrow regarding the City Manager's recommendation of adding 2 full time senior services positions and maintaining a virtually level funded budget; the Senior Center Committee report includes recommendations for allocations contingent on funding availability; we met 156% of our goal for different programs this year; a COVID booster clinic will be held June 5th; preparing for the move of the Consumer Rights unit to the Senior Center-the program manager will speak at the next meeting; provided another tour for a potential developer of the vacant wing; data shows we have been very busy; and, presentations were made to two ADRC statewide meetings about our senior center as it relates to other Councils on Aging.

Patty reviewed the following: various repairs including progress on the external door; Grounds well kept by landscaper and community gardeners; May programming has been very busy including presentations on Mahjong & Canasta, fall prevention series, and the courts; June will be busy with two "distinguished speakers" and concerts; the new Vet to Vet Café for veterans is going well.

Linda reviewed the following: SHINE, Legal consultation and senior service staff are very busy; Vietnamese Elder Group is back up to 45 active members thanks to Lan; Mental Health Awareness/Yellow Tulip event was well attended and the speakers who told their stories were excellent.

Richard asked about the Elder Home Maintenance program. Fran noted the success of our collaborations. Shonee introduced herself. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. (m/s/a)

REPORT TO COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS
Senior Center Committee
June 13, 2023 Minutes

Present: Richard Shea-Chair, Fran Langille, Caroline Sullivan, Kathan Horne, Faceley Henriquez, Amy Waters

Richard called the meeting to order on ZOOM at 12:02 pm. The Minutes of the May 9, 2023, were approved (m/s/a) and the next meeting was confirmed for September 12, 2023 unless an emergency meeting is needed over the summer.

Amy reported on and the committee discussed the following: City Council will vote on the budget on June 20th and it is expected that our part-time pool personnel will become full time regular COA-funded employees for FY'24; It is still looking hopeful that the State will approve FY'24 COA formula funding at \$14/elder; the HHS Consumer Rights Program has moved to the Senior Center under our supervision; working on lease/license renewals and will call a meeting over the summer if a medical group's interest in space turns serious; no additional movement from the 2 developers interested in the vacant space; DPF is getting quotes for a watering system for the community gardens; DPF is scheduling a visit in the near future to start planning process for the walkway to the Fitlot; Masonry work near completion on the wall and stairway by the kitchen/patio; The final tech upgrade and install of TV's, shelving, etc. taking place this week; The reception desk external door repair is complete- handicapped button is working; Room 209A cleaned and organized for Consumer Rights staff; Special programs in July include-Hearing Health, Cannabis Control Commissioner, Elvis Impersonator, Coffee Talk, Downsizing, Play Jeopardy, and Dr. Rachel Monarrez speaking about her first year as Supt. of Worcester Public Schools.

Fran reported that she attended the new drumming program, and it is a fun way to get aerobic exercise.

Richard adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm (m/s/a)