

Webex Connection:

Monday, Sep 21, 2020 4:00 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 172 604 8054

Password: 65xmFYf9R6p

<https://cow.webex.com/j.php?MTID=me318a6ab9606c2e2ac0efb2eac8ecd85>

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DATE: September 14, 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, Sept 21, 2020 at 4 pm via webex**. If you cannot attend the business meeting, 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 August 24, 2020
  - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on September 1, 2020meeting
- 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 26, 2020, 4 pm.
  - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs  
Minutes 8/24/2020

Members Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Richard Pinkes, Paul Franco, Theresa Eckstrom, Fran Langille, Richard Shea, Noreen Shea, Mariana O'Brien, Kathan Horne, & Facely Henriquez.

Staff Present: Amy Waters, Patty Hainsworth, & Linda Wincek-Moore

Robin called the meeting to order via Webex at 4:05 pm. The minutes of the 7/27/20 meeting of the Commission on Elder Affairs were approved (m/s/a). The report from the 8/11/20 Senior Center Committee was approved (m/s/a).

Amy reviewed the highlights of the report which was emailed, including: status of FY'21 funding which could be impacted due to the economic factors resulting from the pandemic; 20% of the year's program goals have been met so far; 16,579 senior contacts have been made since March; drive up flu clinics are being planned; reopening to seniors and tenants will start very slowly when deemed safe; kitchen inspected as a step towards QCC using it to cook cultural and other grab and go meals; staff working on various policies and processes to improve remote services as well as planning to reopen; 3 interns have started; interviews will be in Worcester Business Journal and Klove radio; HHS division heads working on racial equity project; and, among many important partners, the Worcester Government Channel videographers continue to be excellent collaborators so seniors "Stay Connected."

Patty reviewed the following: many programs aired on TV 192 as well as Facebook and youtube including various distinguished speakers, Worcester Art Museum programs, Dr Hirsh connect with your health and more; Dementia Friendly Worcester remains active, the website has been updated, the Walk for Alzheimer's is being planned, and students were trained as Dementia Friends; HVAC issues are being addressed; and Senior Aides are returning to help in the community garden and with cleaning.

Linda reviewed the following: Senior services staff remain very busy assisting with a wide range of issues using the phone, email, usps and leaving/picking up items in bags at seniors' homes; While Hip2Go has ended, food is still being delivered to those who need it; Lindita and Yung are conducting "Healthy Living" remotely; and many seniors are receiving reassurance calls from staff and "buddies."

Questions & comments from members were clarified such as the senior center not opening at least until the parking lot is completed and the ionization device & filters are installed to maintain clean air flow; the COVID testing offered by the City was well run as experienced by one member; a question was raised as to how many seniors have tested positive in Worcester and Amy will try to obtain this information to share; and the staff's work received praise.

Robin reminded members that the next meeting will be September 21<sup>st</sup> instead of the 28<sup>th</sup>. Amy clarified that the reason for the change is due to 9/28 being a Jewish High Holy Day. Richard Pinkes noted that he could not make the 9/21 meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm (m/s/a).

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Senior Center Committee Meeting Sept. 1, 2020 via WEBEX

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Richard Shea, Caroline Sullivan, Fran Langille, Amy Waters, & Patty Hainsworth.

Robin called the meeting to order at 12:10. The 8/11/20 minutes were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 10/13/20 at noon.

Amy and Patty quickly reviewed agenda items under finance and operations, as there was little change from the Commission meeting last week.

Amy and Patty reviewed the task chart to prepare for the reopening of the Senior Center building. Items discussed: Inspector approved opening the kitchen for QCC to produce Grab & Go meals so they are working out logistics with ESWA; fitlot signed like other city playgrounds with covid safety precautions; continuing to produce remote programs and nurture interactive activities; assessing options for appointment and contact tracing system; drafted initial policies for employees, co-locators and visitors to return to the senior center when approved; City law dept. giving opinion about possible waiver requirement; Signage re: distancing, hygiene, wearing masks etc. has been printed and laminated for posting; Plexiglas vendor will visit at end of week to provide suggestions and estimates; 3 sets of estimates almost ready to submit for CDBG funded kitchen equipment; and, communication with Energy & Asset Management re: CARES Act purchases, parking lot completion and installing air filters/ionization system all of which must be done prior to opening.

Richard asked about publicizing the reopening policies and it was confirmed that many methods will be used, which will hopefully include producing a video tour of the changes made within the center and explaining the rules in different languages. It was noted that this could be played in the lobby as a constant reminder.

Also discussed was the importance of the UMASS Medical vaccine research as well as the push for a complete census count by the end of the month. Volunteers are needed for both efforts as emailed to the Commission and others.

The meeting adjourned at 1 pm (m/s/a).