

DATE: Sept. 20, 2021  
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties  
FROM: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair  
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> 4 pm

The next meeting of the **Commission on Elder Affairs** will be held on **Monday, September 27, 2021 at 4 pm at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street, 01604**. MASKS REQUIRED.

If you cannot attend the business meeting, please contact Amy Vogel Waters at 508-799-1232 x48013 or [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 Minutes of June 28, 2021 meeting
  - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on Sept. 14, 2021 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- October 25, 2021 at 4 pm
  - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs  
Minutes June 28, 2021

Members Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair; Caroline Sullivan, Kathan Horne, Mariana O'Brien, Nancy Greenberg, Nghia Le, Noreen Shea, Paul Franco, Richard Shea, Tamara Cullen.

Staff Present: Amy Waters, Linda Wincek-Moore, Suki Lapin

Robin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. on site at the Worcester Senior Center. The minutes of the 5.24.21 meeting were approved (m/s/a). The Senior Center Committee Report of 6.8.21 was approved (m/s/a).

Amy reported on, and the Commission discussed the following: The open meeting law requiring a quorum on site; The FY'22 city tax levy budget totaling \$824,482; The FY'22 state COA budget projected to remain \$350,280 plus the \$9,800 for multicultural health; the FY'21 CDBG grant will cover the \$17,000 kitchen appliance replacement which is in process; Friends of Worcester's Senior Center, Inc. is regrouping from the pandemic as well as the resignation of their one staff person but will be able to provide essential support for the Senior Center this year; the Senior Center re-opened successfully on 6.15.21 with remote programs and services remaining in place; 94% (278) of the FY'21 goal for the number of different programs was met despite the pandemic; 42,026 senior contacts were made during the pandemic; 88% of Worcester residents age 65+ are vaccinated; the Senior Center's role as a vaccination clinic ended in June; renovation projects continue through November including the thermal solar project, the solar array for the parking lot, the kitchen appliance installation, and the fitness center renovation; in the process of interviewing to fill the receptionist position and soon the new Technology Program Assistant position will be advertised; the city has provided a Building Monitor to help welcome seniors back; all tenants will be returning and paying full rent as of 8.1.21.; and Amy praised the staff for their tremendous effort to provide programs and services throughout the pandemic.

Suki filled in for Patty today. The Commission applauded her leadership for programming. Suki reported on and the Commission discussed the following: Exercise programs are returning in July; all 30 slots were filled for Joe Fish fitness; seniors have told us they are still timid about coming back due to the pandemic; the diabetes shoe clinic returns along with a video presentation by podiatrist Dr. Pelto; other returning programs include flower arranging, water color painting, language classes, live music at lunch 3/week and remote programming is here to stay.

The Commission applauded Linda's leadership efforts to reach out and meet the needs of seniors during the pandemic. Linda reported on and the Commission discussed the following: the SHINE health insurance counselor and the legal consultant are holding appointments on site; the multicultural elder groups are returning slowly; Worcester Housing Authority's transportation services will start soon and will bring more participation at the Senior Center; the Farmer's Market is back at the Center every Thursday morning and coupons will be distributed in July for eligible seniors; a QCC intern will be assisting in the fall semester, and Linda will again precept for the UMASS Medical School's Population Health Clerkship in October.

Cable Services staff were recognized for their support of the remote programming during the pandemic. Robin noted that there will be no regular meetings in July or August.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. (m/s/a)

REPORT TO COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS  
Senior Center Committee 9.14.21

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

Robin called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm at the Worcester Senior Center. The next meeting was confirmed for 10/12/21 but the time still needs to be confirmed. The minutes of 6.8.21 were approved (m/s/a).

Finances: Amy reported on, and the committee discussed the following: Hearings and a survey are available to give feedback on spending federal ARPA funds some of which may be allocated to remote programming for the senior center; Tax levy funds are budgeted and being expended as planned in the spring; State funding is expected to be finalized in October when the census data is in; Licenses for space are currently all set; No new development activity regarding the vacant portion of the building; the draft of the request for proposals for management of the fitness center under construction was reviewed and recommendations were discussed.

Operations: Amy reported that our new receptionist is working out well and that we are in the process of interviewing for the technology program assistant; Patty reported on and the committee reviewed the following: Parking lot update appears to be on schedule and the noise level is manageable. The fitness room also making progress: noted the renderings in the hallways. Updates given on reopening, no large programs but many programs restarting on a smaller scale including the exercise programs. It was noted the Fitlot is popular and that there will be a recognition of both the fitness center and Fitlot in October. Despite reminders and encouragement re: mask mandate some participants are lax, resulting in staff reminders and encouragement to wear them consistently.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. (m/s/a)