

DATE: February 22, 2022
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Robin Bahr Casey, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for February 28, 2022, 4 pm

The next meeting of the **Commission on Elder Affairs** will be held on **Monday, February 28, 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 January 24, 2022 meeting
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report- February 8, 2022 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- **March 28, 2022** at 4 pm
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs Minutes 1.24.22

Present: Robin Bahr Casey-Chair, Paul Franco, Fran Langille, Caroline Sullivan, Tamara Cullen, Theresa Eckstrom, Kathan Horne, Facely Henriquez, Chizoma Nosike, Richard Pinkes, Richard Shea, Nancy Greenberg, Noreen Shea, Patty Hainsworth, Linda Wincek-Moore, Amy Waters.

Guests: Gary Rosen-Friends; Kristin Lampson, NP-Mass College of Pharmacy

Robin called them meeting to order at 4 p.m. via Webex. The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the 11.22.21 meeting (m/s/a). The Commission also voted to approved the Report from the Senior Center Committee's 1.11.22 meeting (m/s/a).

Amy reported on the following: The Senior Center doors remain closed due to the high number and transmissibility of omicron cases in the city; There was a 2nd covid case, but no known spread at the senior center; Fallon Health generously donated \$200,000 to support Five Years of Fitness at the senior center; the FY'23 tax levy budget process has begun and a capital request was made for upgraded technology; the State COA formula grant is due to be level funded for FY'22 and the impact of the 2020 census is not yet known for FY'23; We've reached 75% of our FY'22 goal for # of different programs; weekly vaccination clinics at the center; distributed over 4,000 rapid tests; distributing 40-60 cultural grab & go meals/ week; mask mandate continues; employees required to show proof of booster by 2.1.22; \$2200 in rent lost for January's closure, per tenant licenses; there is renewed interest by a developer for the vacant wing; cooperating with hundreds of partners including CMAA which is joining Amy to meet with the City Manager and Mayor about the Age Friendly Worcester initiative tomorrow.

Patty reported on the following: Addressing roof leak into the kitchen, lobby and foyer; fixed door closure issue; new landscaper specifications created for RFP; Solar project is almost done and the fence has been taken down in the parking lot; the fitness center construction is held up by supply chain problems but bid for managing the center going well; many remote programs; if special February programs can't be onsite, some will be video'd; Tech tips and support group developed; multi-cultural meals will eventually expand from vegan/Vietnamese and Chinese to restarting Arabic and Latino style meals; HIP2Go will have food orders at center; AARP will not be able to prepare taxes for seniors at the center but there are some other options; will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Grand Marshalls-City Manager Augustus and Dr. Hirsh, as well as a concert.

Linda reported on the following: HIP2Go process; coat donation distribution; senior services remote assistance; many needing help with housing and fuel assistance as well as accessing boosters and masks; staff making wellness calls; SHINE and Legal appointments on hold unless emergency.

Gary reported on the following: Friends fundraising has been curtailed due to the pandemic and loss of bookkeeper. The Friends board, currently with 6 members, is reactivating. Amy thanked the Friends for continuing to maintain essential support.

Robin announced that the next meeting will be 2.28.22 at 4 and it is not yet clear if it will be remote or onsite. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. (m/s/a)

Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs
Senior Center Committee Meeting February 8, 2022

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

Robin called the meeting to order on Webex at 12:05 p.m. The 1/11/22 meeting minutes were approved (m/s/a). The next meeting was confirmed for 3/8/22 at noon. Amy noted that the Senior Center doors will reopen on Monday 2/14/22 (and Elvis will be in the house).

Finances: Amy reported on, and the committee discussed the following: State COA funding should be coming in as expected this month; the preliminary FY'23 budget meeting went well with discussion on the full cost of operating the new fitness center as well as the capital request for various technology; As part of the budget process additional goals and objectives will be created including at least one to address racial equity; the rising cost of transportation via Safeway needs to be addressed; special outreach to seniors in five housing authority buildings is planned; and, the Committee voted to renew the one year licenses for tenants coming due on 3/31/22 including: Seven Hills-RSVP/Senior Companion, QCC classrooms, Wellness Works Yoga, Pastoral Counseling, and Our Deaf Survivors Center (m/s/a);

Operations: Patty reported on, and the committee discussed the following: repairs being made to roof and front door; next month we will lose our senior aides but it is expected that the Public Facilities Dept. will contract for cleaning during business hours; the fence in the parking lot is down as the Solar Canopy project is nearly completed; good progress is being made on the fitness center renovation despite supply chain problems; began the process of ordering furniture, fixtures and equipment for the fitness center; reopening the senior center next week should go smoothly with most program instructors returning and large events limited to 50 people; the Board of Health lifted the mask mandate as of 2/18/22, so the senior center will operate as "mask friendly;" Black History month will be celebrated with "Songs of Freedom;" Technology teaching will continue; St. Patrick's Day will be hybrid of onsite and remote; remote programming continues with new programs; a new acting class is being introduced; multicultural meals are being phased back in as grab/go/delivery as well as onsite; AARP is not offering tax prep assistance at the Senior Center but there are other limited resources for referrals.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m. (m/s/a)