

DATE: February 21, 2023
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for February 27, 2023, 4 pm via Zoom

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting via zoom on **Monday, February 27, 2023, 4 p.m.**
Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82341418756?pwd=dk5sN2lOVjNoOXNTZjJhZHJhYUpNQT09>

Meeting ID: 823 4141 8756 Passcode: 985743

One tap mobile +13092053325,,82341418756#,,,,*985743# US

Dial by your location +1 309 205 3325 US

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 Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee Report on February 14, 2023 meeting

- II. Presentation: **Asia Simpson - Injury Prevention Coordinator - UMass Memorial Medical 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- March 27, 2023 at 4 pm on zoom
-Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs

January 23, 2023 Minutes

Present: Fran Langille-Chair; Richard Shea; Steve Corridori, Caroline Sullivan, Tamara Cullen, Sarah Faucher, Facely Henriquez, Thuha Le, Kathan Horne, Nancy Greenberg, Lovo Koleigo, Noreen Shea, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters, & Joy Rehfield.

Fran called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm on ZOOM. The minutes of the 11/28/22 and 10/24/22 Commission meetings were approved (m/s/a). The report from the 1/10/23 Senior Center Committee meeting were approved (m/s/a).

Joy Rehfield, Director of the RSVP and Senior Companion programs presented information about them: The programs are under the auspice of Family Services of Central MA and affiliated with 7 Hills Foundation. RSVP recruits and places senior volunteers in community sites such as the senior center, Red Cross and Rachel's Table. A key initiative is preventing seniors from being victims of fraud via the **RSVP Senior Fraud Helpline (1-800-297-9760)** as well as the fraud squad players and brigade. The Senior Companion program recruits and provides in home support for isolated seniors as well as for adult day health participants. Senior companions who meet financial eligibility, receive a stipend as well as mileage and meal reimbursement. RSVP volunteers do not receive a stipend but are eligible for reimbursement. Joy reported that less people are volunteering compared to pre-pandemic and that it has been particularly hard to get seniors to volunteer in the public schools. There was much discussion about frauds and scams that have been very damaging and prevalent. Joy may be reached at jrehfeld@fscm.org.

Amy reported on the Commission discussed the following: The department development plan goals have either been surpassed or very close to accomplished; MCOA is advocating for an increase in the state formula for FY'24 funding; The FY'24 budget request is under consideration by the City administration and would include creating 2 new full time multicultural positions as well as other upgrades; currently in the hiring process for a new Senior Services Assistant/Vietnamese Elder Group Coordinator; working with law department on 4 tenant license renewals; recent publicity includes photos in the Worcester Telegram and an interview by the Mayor on WCCA TV; Average daily attendance in December surpassed that of the December before the pandemic; From February-June 23, will be receiving & distributing 400 more hard copies of the Scoop per month; collaborating with the JCC on Jewish film Festival and with UMASS injury prevention for a 9 week series.

Patty reported on and the Commission discussed the following: HVAC issues being addressed; reorganizing storage to create more office space; Fitness Center going well; January theme for programs is "Be the best you can be in 2023"....new programs have been very well received; In February programs are themed "Love is in the Air" and also there will be a Black History Month speaker.

Linda reported on and the Commission discussed the following: She has been working with interpreters and other resources to maintain the Vietnamese Elder Group and provide needed services until the position is filled; Addressing many economic insecurity issues with seniors; assistance for Assumption intern is appreciated.

The next meeting was confirmed for February 27th at 4 pm on zoom. The meeting adjourned (m/s/a)

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Senior Center Committee Meeting – February 14, 2023

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

Richard called the meeting to order on ZOOM at 12 noon. The next meeting confirmed For March 14th at noon on zoom. The minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting were approved (m/s/a).

Amy reported on and the committee discussed the following: 2nd quarter spending is right on target; will be meeting with the City Manager on the FY'24 budget request in March; program evaluation requests will be sent to contracted services; a senior center participant survey is being developed so as to not duplicate myseniorcenter.net data-the committee will provide input; and 4 license renewals are in process.

Patty reported on and the committee discussed the following: Met with Dept of Public Facilities (DPF) re: their plans to replace the roof over the lunchroom; Will also be meeting with DPF re: various work that needs follow up; we are still waiting for the delivery of the TV for the 2nd floor wellness center and privacy chairs; working on streaming live events from the lunchroom to the TV's in the lobby/hallways; sprinkler system passed inspection; an important basement door was fixed; there was a leak on the 4th floor; programs are going smoothly due to the good weather; the fitness center is well utilized all day but is busiest in the morning; programs include 3 concerts this month and a Black History Trail talk; upcoming includes printmaking, humor, illusionist, ribbon cutting for library kiosk, and on TV Ch. 192 WISE will present a program on Impressionist artists; two interns are providing valuable assistance.

Richard asked whether a slanted roof design was considered, and Patty replied that she is not sure, but knows that there is various equipment on the roof that needs to be worked around and new materials will be used to strengthen the roof. Richard also asked about the solar output which will be researched. Amy noted that our new senior services assistant is scheduled to start next week and that the senior center was used as an overnight warming center during the recent extremely cold weather spell, with approximately 80 people benefitting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. (m/s/a)