

CITY OF ROCKVILLE
SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION
ROCKVILLE SENIOR CENTER
1150 CARNATION DRIVE

January 21, 2021, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

Members Present: Anne Herbster, Chair; Alicia Seymour, Commissioner; Mike Laux, Commissioner; Elaine Koubek, Commissioner; Jack Sprague, Commissioner; Katie Ostrowski, Commissioner; Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison

Staff: Alexis D'Angelo Swope; Sheryl Roff; Terri Hilton; Martha McClelland; Fran Jablonski; Trish Evans

Guest: Alyssa Roff, Senior Transportation Planner for Vision Zero; Judy Rudolph; Twinbrook Village & member of Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee

Absent: Lynn Wagman, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar Commissioner; Norma Brailsford, Commissioner

Chair, Anne Herbster opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. She welcomed **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** back and thanked **Terri Hilton** and **Sheryl Roff** for taking care of things while **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** was out.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked the Commission to review the minutes and if anyone had changes. She asked to add to the minutes in the space before voting on the December meeting, **Patricia Dubroff, Assisting Hands Home Care** will be teaching a class on the Memory Game and it will be listed in the Winter Guide. **Beryl Feinberg** wanted her position to reflect Mayor and Council Liaison. **Commissioner, Jack Sprague** made the motion to approve the November 19, 2020 minutes to reflect the recommended changes. **Commissioner, Alicia Seymour** seconded. All were in favor.

Chair, Anne Herbster introduced **Alyssa Roff** from Vision Zero Task Force. She gave her quarterly update She started with explaining what Vision Zero is again. She went on to the Action Plan Summary. There are four key areas, Enforcement, Education, Engineering and Policy Establishment, to work together to achieve goals. The ongoing action items have a lot to do with Police collaboration with partners in the County and State and is a good opportunity to learn from each other. The action items ahead of schedule are, review of transit stops, evaluate crossings and unassigned intersections, improve traffic signals, create the Pedestrian Master Plan, and improve crash data analysis. The action items delayed are, join Montgomery County on safe routes to school activities, and join Montgomery County on bicycle education program for kids. These items have been delayed due to kids not in school yet and the task force needs more direct contact with the schools in Rockville. The on-schedule items are crash data analysis, update the City Road Code design standards, create comprehensive outreach strategy, safety awareness training for City employees, and training in the community procedure for safer vehicles (City's Fleet). Coordination efforts are taking place with internal staff, such as Martha McClelland, representing seniors and City Communities and Boards and Commissions. The next steps will be to give a presentation to the Mayor and Council on February 1, 2021 on the progress that has been made and to discuss the Bikeway Master Plan and the Pedestrian Master Plan. **Chair Anne Herbster** asked **Alyssa Roff** how she will get the communication to our seniors in the City and that safety also has to do with pedestrian safety. **Alyssa Roff** replied that right now the strategy is to get the word out about what Vision Zero is. **Hjarmen Cordero** is translating information into Spanish and **Martha McClelland** suggested reaching out to Senior Housing facilities. **Alyssa Roff** said it is a priority to get the word out to the Villages and other senior building. Right now, the Task Force is working on the Pedestrian Master Plan. **Beryl Feinberg** said that there will be a conference from the County's Vision Zero at Evan Glass this Saturday and is open to the public. **Alyssa Roff** said she would be there. She said that the Plan does focus on different vulnerabilities, making sure everyone has a voice. **Beryl Feinberg** would like the survey to have specific questions for people in the disability and vision impaired category. She will send suggestions as to what to add to the survey before it goes out. **Elaine Koubek, Commissioner** has about 150 seniors at Brightview that go out and about with different abilities and this Task Force is a good group to get information from to put in her newsletter for this community. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked **Alyssa Roff** what she needs from the Commission. **Alyssa Roff** asked the Commission to provide her with suggestions about what the Task Force should be considering in getting the word out. She asked if she could send the survey to the Commission to get feedback. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said we need to think outside the box for getting communication to the seniors. **Martha McClelland** suggested hosting presentations and inviting seniors to listen. **Judy Rudolph** joined the meeting today because Vision Zero is on the Mayor and Council's agenda. She said the City's outreach and engagement process is not reaching a large part of the population because we can't go door to door or go to associations. A lot of people are not being reached. **Chair, Anne Herbster** thanked **Alyssa Roff** for her work and time that she puts into Vision Zero.

Terri Hilton welcomed **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** back. She said **Sheryl Roff** did a stellar job. She announced **Kelley Day Terry** has been hired to be the new Senior Recreation Supervisor and will start on January 25, 2021. **Kelley Day Terry** came from the Twinbrook Community Center, where she worked for 19 years. She is full of enthusiasm and creativity. **Terri Hilton** continued to report that the 60+ Spotlight is still running. Each segment interviews a different staff person or guest with **Trish Evans** as the host. **Terri Hilton** said she was the last interview and she gave an overview of senior center services. The next person to be interviewed will be Dr. Mark

Landow. The purpose of the 60+ Spotlight is to bring the Senior Center staff into the seniors' living rooms. **Trish Evans** also interviewed **Elaine Koubek, Commissioner** who gave a quick overview of the Senior Citizen's Commission. This will air on Tuesday at 10:00 AM for a couple of weeks and then **Terri Hilton's** interview will run and then Dr. Mark Landow will be interviewed. **Terri Hilton** said the staff is putting together an informational flyer, business card, and pamphlet to give to the Police, who will be another liaison to help the seniors. The staff is continuing to be creative and innovative. February's project is titled Spread Love Not Germs. There will be Valentine Grams they can send to a friend, showing a movie virtually at noon every Friday and a Valentine Care package. **Trish Evans** arranged Care Plus to sponsor these programs.

Andrea Rogers reported she is helping seniors with recertifications. Some of them have received shut off notices. Money is still a struggle. She is looking into how they can get vaccinations. She said there will be a number and link going out from the County to pre-register for the vaccination. **Beryl Feinberg** said Montgomery County is getting an extremely paltry number of doses compared to other counties in the state. She said the Mayor and Council is concerned and it is being added to the Agenda to write to Governor Hogan and tell him the amount getting sent to Montgomery County is unacceptable. **Andrea Rogers** said she is not sure how much the County is getting each week, but the first line responders will be vaccinated first. **Beryl Feinberg** said it is difficult to pre-register and is concerned for the citizens that don't speak English. **Chair, Anne Herbster** recognized the frustration due to the lack of information and thanked **Andrea Rogers**.

Sheryl Roff reported that the Senior Center received a grant for the Garden. It will be used to renovate the plots. Some of what will be done will be to bury fencing to keep animals out, raise the beds, detailed and new fencing, etc.

Beryl Feinberg had to leave at 11:00, but before leaving she gave a highlight of items for the Mayor and Council meeting. There will be a discussion on social justice and racial bias, a presentation on replacement of water meters. A consultant's report has been posted and an entirely new way is proposed to allocate water and sewer rates. The current way has been based on the size of the meter. Sizes vary depending on the type of building. You are encouraged to listen at 7:00 on Monday.

Trish Evans reported the Village newsletter will be going out this afternoon. The senior center staff is working tirelessly to reach out to the seniors with phone calls checking on them. However, there is a big gap of seniors we don't know about. We need to have help from the City to reach the others. Upcoming, is a mask give away and cookie brigade at the Pump House.

Chair, Anne Herbster said the discussions were great today and thanked everyone. She said that she would like comments from the Commission on the Mayor and Council annual report and would focus on that for the next meeting. She will add the mission statement, vision, communication issues, and Vision Zero. She said she would send the report to everyone and ask for feedback.

Liaison /groups:

RSI: RSI sent a letter to Governor Hogan to get staff vaccinated and to get more doses for seniors. The Commission will write a letter to Mark Elrich and Governor Hogan to get staff vaccinated and more allocation to Montgomery County.

Pete Sante Fund: Nothing reported.

United Seniors of Maryland (USM) Forum: Nothing reported.

Chair, Anne Herbster thanked the guests, staff and Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM **Next meeting:** February 18, 2021 - **VIRTUAL – BUILDING CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**