

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

February 17, 2022, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

**Members Present:** Anne Herbster, Chair; Lynn Wagman, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Mike Laux, Commissioner; Jack Sprague, Commissioner; Elaine Koubek, Commissioner; Norma Brailsford, Commissioner

**Staff:** Terri Hilton; Alexis D'Angelo Swope; Fran Jablonski; Andrea Rogers; Trish Evans

**Absent:** Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison

**Guest:** Kevin Leary, Resident and Potential Commissioner

**Chair, Anne Herbster** started the meeting at 10:00 a.m. She started with greetings and well wishes to everyone. She introduced Kevin Leary who is considering becoming a commissioner. She explained that the Commission is responsible for giving input, suggestions, and the needs of the Seniors to the Mayor and Council. The RSI is a 501C3 non-profit and not a Mayor and Council appointed Board. The mayor is an RSI representative and sits on the Board. RSI fund raises for senior services and items not included in the City budget. She said the meetings are a mixture of staff and commissioners. She introduced the staff and the commissioners. **Kevin Leary** introduced himself. He said he is a long time Rockville resident and lives in Twinbrook. He said he saw the vacancy on the Commission and wants to give back and is looking forward to working with everyone. He is 65 and works for Sodexo in Gaithersburg.

**Trish Evans** reported on the Villages. She introduced herself as the Village Facilitator. She helps community groups and neighbors form network support for their communities. They are comprised of all ages and backgrounds. The Twinbrook Village is vibrant. They have held many events. They are a 501C3 non-profit and would like some technology help. Some of the other Village groups are King Farm, Town Center, Woodley Gardens, and East Rockville. East Rockville hopes to launch a series of concerts. The next performance will be on May 1, 2022. It will be a New Orleans Jazz fest featuring Rockville's own Jay Summerour Band. She said if anyone knows of any local talent to point them her way. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said that RAVE is working with a Consultant in developing a leadership training along with Pazit from Montgomery County.

**Chair, Anne Herbster** asked what was going on at the Senior Center regarding in person classes/programs, mask mandate, etc. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** replied that the staff would like to follow the County guidelines but are waiting to hear from the City Manager. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked if classes/programs will be held in person or virtual. **Terri Hilton** replied that some will be in person and some hybrid. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said fitness classes will be hybrid from now on and that is why there is a need of additional staff in the Fitness Department. She said Spring classes will start in April. Spring registration starts March 1. **Terri Hilton** said the test kit and face mask give away was very successful. It was very organized and went smoothly. She said that we have about another 100 to distribute. **Terri Hilton** reported that the building of the greenhouse and renovations started this week. She said the new building will be ADA accessible and will have features that it did not have before. It will be a little larger than before inside to accommodate a wheelchair and or walker. The outside will have benches and an area for planting. This upgrade is fully funded out of the ADA CIP budget. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked for a signage update. **Terri Hilton** said new signage throughout the city is going in today. The signs will be larger with clearer lettering. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said at the last meeting **Randy Alton**, a resident had attended requesting a vehicular entrance to the center from Gude Drive through the parking lot. After some discussion, a motion was made by **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner and Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** to draft a letter to the Mayor and Council strongly recommending they investigate and take action to create vehicular access to the center off Gude Drive through the center's back parking lot. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** seconded it. All were in favor. **Chair, Anne Herbster** agreed to draft a letter and send it to **Terri Hilton** who will also run it by **Tim Chestnut**.

**Chair, Anne Herbster** asked if there is anything else that the Commission should request from the Mayor and Council in the Budget. **Terri Hilton** said the Mayor and Council is encouraging. She said the greatest need due to the senior population growth is more staff support to assist seniors, especially in Senior Sports and Fitness. It is a lot of work to create links and help support while the classes are in session. Full time support is necessary. She said that she submitted the request as a budget enhancement and was told it won't be put in the budget to go before the Mayor and Council. She said fitness classes have doubled and there is a great need for the position. The title of the position is a full time Program Specialist I. Some revenue from the classes will support this position. **Chair, Anne Herbster** stated a letter will be written to the Mayor and Council strongly recommending this position to be put into the budget and some Commissioners need to attend when it will go before the Mayor and Council to show continued support for the services the center provides. The dates of budget public hearings are March 7, March 21, and April 18. She said that the next step is to sign up and request a time for one of the budget public hearings and request a time. Once the letters for both the Gude Drive access and the new position are finalized the Commissioners will be copied on it.

**Chair, Anne Herbster** asked everyone to review the minutes from January 20, 2022. There were no comments or changes. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** seconded it. All were in favor.

**Chair, Anne Herbster**, asked the Commission if everyone agrees to have the Housing Authority person attend a meeting to give a talk. Everyone agreed.

**Chair, Anne Herbster** explained that the Chair position is a one-year position and need to have an election. **Norma Brailsford, Commissioner** nominated **Anne Herbster**. **Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** seconded it. All were in favor.

**Liaison/groups:**

**RSI: Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** reported that there are half a million in assets and they are still meeting.

**Pete Sante Fund: Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** reported that it is still in existence and no more money has been added to it. She said the Holiday Bazaar was very good and well attended.

**United States Seniors of Maryland (USM) Forum:** Nothing reported

**Chair, Anne Herbster** said the Commission needs to talk about the \$300 budget and how these funds could be used. She requested the Commission to bring ideas and suggestions to the next meeting. She suggested maybe planters for the new greenhouse. **Trish Evans** suggested wrap around advertising on the buses. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** suggested communication with the community such as postcards.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM. **Next meeting:** March 17, 2022 – Virtual – 10:00 AM