

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

February 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

**Members Present:** Alicia Seymour, Commissioner; Mike Laux, Commissioner; Jack Sprague, Commissioner; Katie Ostrowski, Commissioner; Lynn Wagman, Commissioner; Norma Brailsford, Commissioner; Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison

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

**Guest:** Eric Fulton; Chair of Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee; Judy Rudolph; Twinbrook Village & member of Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee

**Absent:** Chair, Anne Herbster; Krishna Kumar Commissioner; Elaine Koubek, Commissioner

**Alexis D'Angelo Swope** opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. She said that she will be leading the meeting for **Chair, Anne Herbster**, who is away due to a family emergency.

**Alexis D'Angelo Swope** asked the Commission if anyone had any comments or changes to the minutes. **Katie Ostrowski, Commissioner** made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. **Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Alexis D'Angelo Swope** introduced the guest speaker, Eric Fulton, Chair of the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee, RPAC, who will be doing a presentation, slide show that will be provided to the group after the meeting. **Eric Fulton** started with some background. He has been a Rockville resident for 11 years. He is visually impaired and that is one of the reasons why he has taken an interest in pedestrian safety. Everyone is a pedestrian, car, bike, foot, wheelchairs, strollers, mobility scooters, etc. The transportation options in the City impacts the safety of pedestrians. There has been an increase in cars hitting people since 2019. The RPAC was authorized by the Mayor and Council in 2019 because the Traffic and Transportation Commission was not able to address pedestrian needs. He then went over the RPAC's Mission Statement and goals, the most important of which is to advocate to improve pedestrian safety in pursuit of Vision Zero. He went over the rest of the goals and mission of RPAC, the small and big picture focus, how to get involved, dates of upcoming meetings, ways to report concerns or items that need attention such as sidewalk repair, need for traffic signals or crosswalks. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak. **Beryl Feinberg** thanked him for his very comprehensive presentation and for coming to this meeting. She also said that there is a great need for a Special Needs Commission in Rockville.

**Andrea Rogers** started staff reports. **She** reported that she, Martha, Karina, Lidia, and Fran are very busy taking calls from seniors and trying to address their needs. She and **Martha McClelland** are working on assisting seniors with recertifications, housing, shut off notices, financial issues, and emergency assistance. **Andrea Rogers, Martha McClelland, Alexis D'Angelo Swope** are beginning talks on creating a Hoarding Task Force. She said they are getting information from Code Enforcement, and City of Gaithersburg and other jurisdictions as to how to identify people who need this and ways to help them. She said Gaithersburg is working with other organizations in Virginia to develop their task force and they are partnering with Adult Protective Services, APS. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said surrounding counties and cities have been very helpful in sharing their resources. She said this would be a resource for all residents, but their group would just be focusing on seniors. **Beryl Feinberg** suggested they contact Takoma Park. **Terri Hilton** said she could see this as a budget item for the next budget year. **Beryl Feinberg** said she was not sure she wanted to wait that long and would have a discussion with **Terri Hilton** about it later.

**Trish Evans** reported on the Villages. Twinbrook, East Rockville, and King Farm are very active and holding on-line programs. East Rockville had a mask give away. They handed out 900 masks. There is a wonderful partnership between civic associations and Villages to serve the community. Twinbrook Village will hold a massive mask give away on March 3. They are partnering with the City, the Twinbrook Pool, and the Community Association. She is hoping to do something similar with Lincoln Park. **Trish Evans** is working with **Terri Hilton** and **Kathy Dansler** from Channel 11 to reach the seniors in their homes. They launched the 60+ Spotlight months ago. Some of the topics addressed were decluttering with **Rika Grainger**; Senior Fitness with **Chris Klopfer**; Senior Commission with **Elaine Koubek**; Senior Center Services with **Terri Hilton**; Covid 19 Vaccinations and working with all jurisdictions with **Mark Landou**, which is airing now. **Kathy Dansler** has been wonderful in facilitating this. There has been preliminary discussions and cooperation with the Police in identifying and alerting us of residents we are not aware of that need our help. They are letting people know that we are available to help them in any way we can.

**Terri Hilton** reported next. She said that we had an all staff meeting yesterday We discussed what everyone has done and accomplished over the last 9-10 months. The creativity and innovation have been amazing. There were over 190 virtual classes.

February was a month to celebrate Valentines Day, romantic movies to rent, request Valentine Grams, romantic movies to watch every Friday at lunch time through Zoom, and Valentine gift package to send. We are now moving into Spring and Summer programs. There is a whole new list of events not listed in the Spring Guide. The cover of the Spring Guide is a photo of one of our gardeners and the very tall sunflower he grew. This picture says to us that we are rounding the corner to normalcy. Registration for Spring programs is on March 4. **Terri Hilton** asked **Sheryl Roff** to go over some of the upcoming events. There will be Pie Day, you can make a pizza on Zoom with friends, the anniversary of the center closing is March 17<sup>th</sup>, and, on that day, the program will be "Celebrating You". The staff will be available to wave and pass out a goodie bag with a St. Pat's Day theme. The Brown Bag Lunch series will start again. A Garden Kit, ingredients for something for you to grow. Mothers' Day, celebrating your favorite mother or friend. The opening of the Time Capsule that was buried 26 years ago. The items recovered will be given to the owners about. **Terri Hilton** thanked **Beryl Feinberg** for constant and continuing support. **Terri Hilton** said that staff is contacting 500 or so members that do not have email to see if they would like assistance to pre-register with Montgomery County for an appointment to get a vaccine. All the information regarding State mass vaccination sites, transportation options to sites and other information will be listed on our website. We are working with Montgomery County to get vaccinations into arms and getting the word out that we are there to assist them. **Trish Evans** asked if there was any way to lobby to get a site designated in Rockville for vaccinations like was able to be done for testing. **Beryl Feinberg** shared the same sentiments. She said to get the testing done it took all Councilmembers and staff to petition to the State and would have to do the same for this. Parking, back-up generator, and storage of the vaccine are necessary to have at a site. **Beryl Feinberg** asked **Terri Hilton** to send her an email with the amount of regular and handicap parking spaces the center has and the back-up generator, and storage ability. **Terri Hilton** said Montgomery County is working on a plan to reach homebound seniors. She said that Howard County is using the Fire Department to reach their homebound seniors and will mention this to Montgomery County. **Trish Evans** said that **Jim Resnick** is doing virtual home checks and is working with the Villages to work with him, **Beryl Feinberg** will ask him to talk at a Mayor and Council meeting. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said **Jim Resnick** will be providing a future presentation to seniors. She said she would provide **Beryl Feinberg** with **Jim Resnick's** contact information.

**Beryl Feinberg** mentioned some items that will be on Monday night's agenda. She said the start time has gone back to 7:00. **Stacey Webster** will be presenting the FY2022 Operating Budget. There will be a work session on residential rentals and what the Mayor and Council direction should be. There will be a Housing work session on MPDU's and senior tax credits. First time homebuyers and City Tax Credit. There will be Budget Public Hearings on March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>. The 20/40 Master Plan presentation and discussion will be on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Budget work sessions will continue through Spring. Boards and Commissions Task Force guidelines for new commissions will be on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Liaison /groups:**

**RSI:** Nothing reported.

**Pete Sante Fund:** Nothing reported.

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

**Alexis D'Angelo Swope** thanked the guests, staff and Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM      **Next meeting:** March 18, 2021 - **VIRTUAL – BUILDING CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**