

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

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

Members Present: Anne Herbster, Chair; Alicia Seymour, Commissioner; Jack Sprague, Commissioner; Katie Ostrowski, Commissioner; Lynn Wagman, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Elaine Koubek; Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison

Staff: Alexis D'Angelo Swope; Sheryl Roff; Martha McClelland; Fran Jablonski; Andrea Rogers

Absent: Mike Laux, Commissioner; Norma Brailsford, Commissioner

Chair, Anne Herbster started the meeting at 10:00 a.m. She welcomed everyone and checked to see how everyone was doing. The Commission discussed vaccinations and the logistics about where everyone has gone. They discussed the best times to try to call and make appointments. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** reported that our St. Patrick's Day event was wonderful and that about 100 people drove through and that most of them received their vaccinations. She also said that staff has been making calls to the seniors without email and assisting them in getting pre-registered. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked if there is any news as to when the center will open. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** responded we have not heard anything yet but are working with the County to see what their plans are and how they will operate when they open. She said staff has been meeting to discuss what it will be like when we open and working on a plan to be ready when that time comes. Whenever that is it will be very different.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked the Commission if anyone had any comments or changes to the minutes. **Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Martha McClelland reported next. Since she has had both of her vaccinations, she can start meeting with people at their homes. She has been helping people make appointments for their vaccinations. She has been meeting with the Vision Zero Task Force and the next step for them is to get the survey out to people. The task force decided not to translate it. She told them if people had difficulty with language or anything else that she could get them help. They decided to get input from students, young drivers too. She said she would check on tax preparation people, VITA, and see if they would open their services up again since the tax deadline has been extended.

Andrea Rogers reported she is working on organization in the center to prepare for the ADA construction and reopening. She is working on a spreadsheet of resources she has come across for staff use. She wants to make it a tool that when you click on a link it will take you to a website for the resource you need. She said it will be useful when meeting with clients. She worked at the vaccination pre-registration event at Mt. Calvary Church on Saturday. It was held by the City, County, and Mt. Calvary to get people pre-registered for a vaccination appointment for the residents of Lincoln Park. She said it was very organized and well run. Not as many attended as they had hoped.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope had a meeting with **Rika Grainger** who was on the Gaithersburg Hoarding Task Force to get some ideas. This task force for Rockville is in the early stages. The next steps are to meet with Code Enforcement and Community Services to see how they should proceed and then they will extend to HOC. They have a couple of people in mind who would benefit from this. Staff has been making calls to seniors without emails to get them pre-registered for a vaccination appointment. There is now a phone number for seniors 75+ to get an appointment. The Celebrate You event yesterday was wonderful and well attended. Everyone was happy to see each other. There are still concerns at Bethany House. We are trying to work with the manager and board members to resolve issues as they arise. Right now, one of the elevators is not working. The manager said there is a work order in, and it should be resolved soon. In the future we may need back up from the Commission to help solve problems in senior buildings. The other 3 buildings, Heritage House, Town Center, and Victory Court have good management and support for their residents and don't have as many issues.

Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison reported next on some of the items that will be presented at the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, March 22, 2021. The Mayor and Council are in the process of reviewing the FY22 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget. The public record is still open to include items anyone wants to add. There will be a two-hour budget work session on Monday. Income tax revenues are coming back. Staff will be proposing some additional requests and responses. There is no meeting on March 29 and there will be an additional meeting on April 5 to discuss the Comprehensive 20-40 Master Plan. There will be a virtual public hearing on April 12 to receive testimony on the FY22 Operating and Capital Improvements and the 20-40 Comprehensive Master Plan. She said she would discuss translating the Vision Zero Survey into other languages with **Rob DiSpirito**. It is an important item for the members of the Mayor and Council. There are two new positions added to the FY22 Operating Budget, Racial Equity and Social Justice position in the City Managers Office and a Mental Health Services position in the Police Department.

The position in the Police Department will help the officers respond to a 911 domestic disturbance or mental health issue call. The position will also be utilized to help officers with their stress level from dealing with these issues. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** asked who has control of opening the Senior Center. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** responded It is City, County and seek guidance from the County Health Department. She said she would be in touch with later after her meeting with the County and after her meeting with **Chris Henry** and **Tim Chestnut**

Alexis D'Angelo Swope said that staff is looking at policies and procedures to prepare for reopening.

Chair, Anne Herbster inquired about the volunteer service survey that went out and if it was still open. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said she could resend it and that March 19, 2021 was the due date. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said it is a chance to voice your opinion.

Chair, Anne Herbster put the annual report on the screen for the Commission to preview. Some suggestions of changes and edits were given. She said she wants to make the report concise and make people aware of what the Commission is doing and how it will affect seniors for the long-term perspective. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** said she will reach out to the members of the Mayor and Council to get the presentation of the report on a future agenda.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope announced there will be some construction coming up for ADA renovation. The grease trap in the kitchen will be moved to the outside underground. Some sinks will be replaced. They are trying to have it done while the center is still closed. There is money in the budget amendment for Monday's Mayor and Council meeting to renovate the Greenhouse.

Sheryl Roff reported the center received a \$20,000 grant to renovate the garden. Old fencing will be replaced with new. The ground will be tilled, and the plots divided. It should be ready for the gardeners in April. Some of these people have had plots for 10-20 years.

Liaison/groups:

RSI: They helping to pay for the center's zoom accounts. They are not doing any fund raising due to the closure. Everyone doing well.

Pete Sante Fund: Nothing reported.

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

Chair, Anne Herbster thanked everyone for their input on the annual report and will distribute to the Commission for more input and will send the finished version to the Mayor and Council to read before it is presented. She will prepare a Power Point presentation for the Mayor and Council meeting presentation. She thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM. **Next meeting:** April 15, 2021 – **VIRTUAL – BUILDING CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**