

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

April 15, 2021, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

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

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

**Absent:** **Katie Ostrowski**, Commissioner; Norma Brailsford, Commissioner

**Chair, Anne Herbster** started the meeting at 10:00 a.m. She started with well wishes to everyone on their health and getting vaccines.

**Alexis D'Angelo Swope** put the minutes from the March 18, 2021 on the screen. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked the Commission if anyone had any comments or changes to the minutes. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** asked to take out the sentence regarding tax duplication because the amount is incorrect. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** made a motion to accept the minutes with the requested change. **Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Chair, Anne Herbster** announced that **Terri Hilton** was elected President of Maryland Recreation and Parks Association and asked if the Commission would send her an email congratulating her. Her acceptance speech will be at 3:30 at MRPA.

**Alexis D'Angelo Swope** reported there is no word on when the center will be opened, but policies and procedures are in place for when that will happen. We are waiting on direction from the County. The County is using some of their Senior Centers for Camp Sites. So far, we have one camp for the summer. We may possibly start taking seniors to go grocery shopping in June. We are still doing food distribution and should still be doing it until at least fall. We are currently serving 165 meals plus shelf stable food. The Farmers Market will be opening, and we hope to receive some fresh fruit and vegetables from them to provide with the meals. The update on senior buildings and safety issues is that Bethany House is improving. The elevator is fixed. There is more signage regarding mask wearing and social distancing. The fire protection system has been checked and updated. Some of the residents in this building received vaccinations this past week. Victory Court residents will be receiving vaccinations on April 27. Many of the residents at Town Center Apartments went to Richard Montgomery for their vaccinations. The County is currently working on getting home bound seniors vaccinated. **Trish Evans** is working with Pazite at Montgomery County to identify the seniors that need the vaccination. **Andrea Rogers, Martha McClelland, and the front desk staff** will also help to identify and keep track of these home bound seniors. Some seniors are hesitant to receive shots and we are trying to get information to the Hispanic community about the shot as well as information on housing and other resources and concerns. Mt. Calvary Church will be a vaccination site to help the African American community. She said she would be calling Town Center Apartments to start the pilot program for the Hoarding Task Force for the residents that will be moving to the new building.

**Trish Evans** reported next. There is a lot of energy in the community. RAVE, Rockville Area Village Exchange, is affiliated with helping Villages get started and help with resources and tech support and tracking software such as East Rockville Pump House cookie brigade. This software helps to keep track of and identify new neighbors. East Rockville is planning an outdoor event on Sunday at a park. There will be limited access to the bathroom. Social distancing and mask wearing will be required. The Rockville Town Center group will be having its first in person gathering at 911 Park. Mask and social distancing will be required. There are six condo building represented at events. This group is in its infancy stage and hoping it is going in the direction to become a Village. She asked the Commission if there is not a Village in your neighborhood or know of a neighborhood wanting to restart or start one from scratch to contact her. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said RAVE is starting to have the conversation as to whether to require vaccinations and if not vaccinated keep people separated from staff and participation.

**Andrea Rogers** reported next. She said she is returning phone calls, talking to clients, helping with their mail and other issues. She has been helping with the garden. Making the sign for the MANNA plot. Attending the virtual annual MRPA conference. She attended a meeting last week on housing. They talked about the courts opening back up for evictions. Rockville is not open yet. Silver Spring courts are open. They are hearing case in three different court rooms. If a person is facing an eviction, they need to self-declare in writing to their landlord to get an extension. Some of the seniors facing eviction is not from COVID. She said she is currently working with one senior to help with funding and trying to get her family involved.

**Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** said there are two important items on the Agenda for Monday at 7:00. One item is the FY2022 Mayor and Council Budget Worksession. The Mayor and Council will be providing direction to on the final changes to the budget. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked if there is anything in the budget from the senior services perspective that the Commission

needs to be aware of and **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** said no. The other important item on the Agenda is the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan Worksession. This is a worksession for the Mayor and Council to discuss the Planning Commissions' recommended draft of the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan with members of the Planning Commission. This will be an opportunity give written testimony. On April 26 there will be an item regarding WMATA Metro Station and the bridge over Rockville Pike. There will also be a presentation from City staff on deer culling. The public hearing for public record for the FY22 Budget has been extended to May 2. On May 3 there will be another worksession on the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan. On May 10 there will be a public hearing on Accessory Dwelling Units. Currently Rockville does not have them but need to discuss what regulations and guidelines would be necessary and if Rockville should even consider having them. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked what Accessory Dwelling Units were and **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** explained that they are an attached or unattached dwelling unit or suite, smaller living unit on a property for secondary source of income, children returning home, or in-law suite. It could create parking issues, noise, a whole list of considerations. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said the Commission needs to decide what they want to do with the \$250.00 FY 2021 funds from the Mayor and Council before June 15, 2021. In the past purchased white boards, masks, etc. The Commission needs to vote on that to use it for. USM usually takes \$50.00, but since we haven't heard from them the total amount is \$300.00. **Chair, Anne Herbster** suggested Zoom accounts for a year for two seniors or one or two tablets to give to a senior. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said she would investigate the possibility of that, but all technology related equipment has to be approved by the IT department, so something like that may have to be in the FY22 or FY23 budget. **Andrea Rogers** suggested a supply of adult diapers because there is no adult diaper bank and there is a need. **Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** suggested an overall pick me up for all seniors such as an ice cream social. **Chair, Anne Herbster** suggested a recognition for the Senior Center staff. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** suggested an outdoor picnic for staff. **Elaine Koubek, Commissioner** suggested a Life Alert pendant for a senior, which is about \$30.00 per month. A motion was made by **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** to provide recognition event to staff. **Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** seconded it. All were in favor.

**Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** said she did bring up to the Mayor and Council to have the Senior Citizens Commission's Annual Report put on the Mayor and Council Agenda. She thought it would be by the end of June. **Chair, Anne Herbster** requested the Commission to brainstorm and get a sense of one or two future items they wanted to focus on as a Commission in the next few months. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** said they could investigate what other senior centers are doing in the state. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said it was a good idea and wanted to see a global perspective regarding communication to seniors. She said we could use **Jack Sprague, Commissioner's** idea and see what other cities are doing for communication and outreach to seniors. **Mike Laux, Commissioner** said her would like to enlist neighbors to help identify seniors that are alone and isolated that we do not know about and reach out to them and engage the Communities more. **Trish Evans** suggested utilizing the front desk staff and neighbors to identify the seniors that are isolated. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said the next step is to bring forward some new ideas. She said the homework for the Commission is to have everyone take a different area of the state or a state and see what doing. She suggested doing a 60+ Spotlight on Communication to address some items, like call the center if you or your neighbor are struggling with isolation. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said Montgomery County is having a forum on Isolation on May 18 and will share the information on that. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said she will send an email to obtain ideas from the Commission for ideas to focus on in 2022. She said that the Commission accomplished a lot in the last year and is off to a good start and will make even more efforts to expand on outreach. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said she will send notes from the Senior Commission Forum out as well. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said she would put parking at the Senior Center on the list **Trish Evans** suggested a rental library for refurbished lap-tops etc. They could sign them out. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said we could utilize students to help with fixing computers. **Andrea Rogers** suggested free library on the grounds and **David Spitzer** from the wood shop could build it. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said these are all great ideas.

**Liaison/groups:**

**RSI:** Nothing reported.

**Pete Sante Fund:** Nothing reported.

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

**Chair, Anne Herbster** thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. **Next meeting:** May 20, 2021 – VIRTUAL – BUILDING CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE