

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

April 18, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Ann Herbster, Chair; Lynn Wagman, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar; Commissioner; Norma Brailsford; Commissioner; Virginia Onley, Councilmember.

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

**Guest:** Jack Sprague; Alicia Seymour

**Chair Ann Herbster** opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with introductions. Alicia Seymour introduced herself and expressed interest in helping to promote the Senior Center and what it has to offer and for people to join the commission. She recently moved here from Rhode Island. She has had several years' experience in the hospitality industry and is very proficient in social media and putting informational programs together.

**Old Business:** **Alexis D'Angelo** provided an update on the ADA Project describing the changes including: new bathrooms to fit a wheelchair and caregiver were completed, adding a lift to the Carnation room stage to include building ramps to make it wheelchair accessible, new office reconfiguration has been completed, the front entrance is open and will close again in about a week for a couple of days to apply texture and sealant to the concrete, renovation of the bathroom in the main hallway to provide wider doors, etc. is ongoing, and the modification of the breakfast bar is complete, to include counters at wheelchair height.

**Andrea Rogers** reported that things are going well in her area. She said that some have signed up for the Program Assistance Fund to have help with the cost of membership, classes and trips. The City allocated \$25K last year to fund it. That allows for approximately \$200 per person that qualify. The information to donate to the Program Assistance Fund or Rockville Seniors, Inc., RSI is located on the registration form in the guide and is advertised on Channel 11. **Trish Evans** is currently working on a Scholarship/Sponsorship package to fund either the Program Assistance Fund or RSI.

**Committee Reports:** Discussion around **recruitment** needs: The Group discussed some ideas on what we can do to find new members and the following suggestions were provided: provide a statement on what we do, look at expanding diversity to find new members, perhaps attend the CCACC Friday luncheon, Wine and Cheese event, Health Fair, the birthday event, have a table at Hometown Holidays, put a flyer in the libraries, shops; and perhaps go through The Villages. Create an interest form that we can use to describe what we do and put a notice in the weekly city email.

Discussion around **communication** needs: The group discussed some areas that we should consider focusing on and the idea of a survey, even a survey at events to see how they heard or found us. The suggestion was made to look at past surveys to see what was done and determine what are the needs now. The group felt that there is a need to create broader awareness of the services and programs offered to seniors in Rockville. How do we get the information out, what information is wanted and needed and what services are not being met by the City? The suggestion was made to have **Terri Hilton**, manager, present the results from the last Senior Needs Assessment at the next meeting in May. **Alicia Seymour** provided several media-based suggestions for getting the word out about what the Senior Center is about and has to offer. Several other ideas were presented, such as look at the recently created flyer that Andrea Rogers, Outreach Worker, developed and how can we get it out more broadly, what materials should be translated, look at existing materials and identify gaps, add more information to the Adults 60+ booklet, ensure senior services are being shared at all city events, have a Seniors float at the city parade and determine what changes and present to Mayor & Council.

Some other issues were discussed such as expansion of parking, expansion of the building by using portables for more classrooms and events and updating signage throughout the community to get to the center.

**Liaison Reports:** **Rockville Seniors, Inc.:** **Commissioner Lynn Wagman** provided an update that they have decided on a firm to audit their books July 1, 2019. They interviewed four firms. They will be holding their annual plant sale. Not sure of the date yet. The Spring Bazaar is cancelled due to lack of interest.

**Pete Sante Fund:** **Commissioner Lynn Wagman** nothing to report.

**United Seniors of Maryland (USM) Forum:** **Commissioner Norma Brailsford** agreed to take on the role if she can get transportation.

**Chair Anne Herbster** provided an update on the City Boards and Commission Task Force. She said a survey was sent out, but not everyone participated.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

**Next meeting:** May 16, 2019, 10 a.m.