

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

May 20, 2021, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

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

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

Absent: Alicia Seymour, 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.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked the Commission if anyone had any changes or comments to add to the minutes from April 15, 2021. There were none. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. **Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope gave update on the senior center opening to the seniors. She said at the present time it will be on June 14 with limited capacity and by reservation only. She said that the staff is waiting on information from the County and the news is ever changing. She said the next Commission meeting should be able to be held in person either in the building or outside and will still be available by Zoom as well.

Martha McClelland announced she was retiring at the end of the month. **Chair, Anne Herbster** told her she would be missed, and she thanked her for all her efforts and hard work caring for the seniors all these years. **Martha McClelland** said this is what she would have been doing even if she had been in a volunteer position. She said she would need someone to replace her on the Zero Vision Task Force. She said they meet once a month and is open to the public to attend. The Rockville Advocacy Committee will keep attending. She said that since more people have gotten vaccinated there have been a few less calls. She said she would keep some of her long-time clients as friends because that is what they have become, and she will check on them. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said that she did receive approval to fill the position and that **Martha McClelland** will be tough to replace.

Trish Evans said there is no replacing Martha. She said she is working on the Villages newsletter. Several villages have met in person. Town Center met in person at the end of April. They met at 911 Park and handed out information to people passing by. They had flyers and big posters with tear off tabs with **Trish Evans** contact information. Town Center has put flyers and poster throughout Town Center, Dawson's Market, and all the buildings in Town Center. They started meeting the first time before the pandemic and are continuing now. East Rockville Pump House held a great event outdoors. RAVE helped them to design business cards with the Pump House logo. They were delivered with cookies to the neighbors to grow and broaden their base. We are pushing out to Burgundy Knolls and Lincoln Park and will try to develop partnerships. King Farm is going gangbusters. The work that **Martha McClelland** and **Andrea Rogers** are doing could be enhanced by these groups. She also said that she would be happy to serve on the Vision Zero Task Force.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope thanked the front desk staff for all they have been doing during the closure of the center. She said there are some outdoor programs coming up. There will be a Father's Day Cook Out lunch on Friday, June 11 from 12:30 -2:30. It will be sponsored by Collingswood. CDC guidelines will be followed. Staff and the Commission are invited. **Martha McClelland's** retirement celebration is on Tuesday, May 25th from 3:00 -5:00. There will be some out-door fitness programs in the summer. Currently, there is a brown bag lunch outside on Mondays from 11:30-12:30 for the participants to have lunch and talk amongst each other with a staff member. There will be Parking Lot Bingo on June 2nd from 4:00-6:00. There will be the reschedule Cinco de Mayo Wine and Cheese event on June 22nd from 4:30-6:30 The June newsletter will be going out next week. As we begin to open, we will try to control what is going on. There won't be lingering to start off. Maybe arrange a social hour with a staff member. The Time Capsule program was a great event. The presentation showed the time capsule being dug up and power point slides of photos and letters. **Trish Evans** was the MC. 86 people participated. It was covered by LDMV, WUSA9 and NBC. **Lorraine Schack**, prior employee, had letters written from the grandparents to her children and will be picking them up in July when she is here for a visit. This event started as a fund raiser and the Mayor and Council at the time made a declaration before the time capsule went in the ground. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said the Commission needs to decide on how they want to utilize the funds from FY2021. It is \$300.00. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said they must vote on it as a group. **Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** made a motion to allocate the funds to the Father's Day Cookout event on June 11, 2021 from 12:30-2:30. **Mike Laux, Commissioner** seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said grocery shopping will resume on June 1, 2021. We promised bus and driver help for the Camps so we will have to coordinate that with the Center opening and we will do shopping and possibly transportation in the afternoon to use the gym.

Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison gave the Mayor and Council update. The FY22 Operating and Capital Improvements Budget passed. The Senior Citizens' Commission Annual Report that was scheduled for June and almost every item that is not time sensitive is deferred. The new date for the presentation of the Senior Citizens' Commission Annual Report is September 13. The Mayor and Council is spending most of their time working on the 20/40 Comprehensive Master Plan. An additional meeting will be added on June 1 to work primarily on the 20/40 Comprehensive Master Plan. The Mayor and Council will be spending 2 hours on the 20/40 Comprehensive Master Plan on June 7 and on District 17. August 2 will be the last meeting before summer recess. Staff has been supportive. Mayor and Council has received input from community advocacy groups. The Memorial Day celebration will be much smaller than usual. There will be multiple events at RedGate Park coming up. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked what decision was made for RedGate. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** replied that Mayor and Council would like to keep it as a park.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** to discuss the email he sent on April 22, 2021 regarding suggestions to help seniors with isolation. The three categories he spoke about were, a seniors visitors program, telephone calls to seniors, creating public awareness of the problem. **Martha McClelland** said we would need to do background checks on volunteers and Senior Connection has a system in place that we can refer people to. She said that the Villages helps in their communities. The staff at the center has been making well check calls. The bus drivers alert us if they suspect something is amiss. They and the Post Office let us know if mail is piling up. We also must make sure the individual wants help. **Trish Evans** had a meeting with Police and provided them with a script, to help bridge the gap with mental health and isolation, and an information card listing our services and numbers. After some discussion and suggestions of ideas about some of the things we are doing and some ideas about what we could be doing to better serve and get information out to our seniors, **Chair Anne Herbster** requested everyone to think of more ideas and send to her before the next meeting.

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:** June 20, 2021 – **Board Room or Outdoor and Virtual**