

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

July 21, 2022, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

Members Present: Anne Herbster, Chair; Jack Sprague, Commissioner; Carla McCaffrey, Commissioner; Stephen Smith, Commissioner; Dr. Judith Mairs, Commissioner; Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison

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

Absent: Elaine Koubek, Commissioner; Lynn Wagman, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Kevin Leary, Commissioner

Chair, Anne Herbster started the meeting at 10:00 a.m. She started with greetings and well wishes to everyone. She reported that **Norma Brailsford** stepped down and she introduced two new Commissioners, **Stephen Smith**, and **Dr. Judith Mairs**. **Stephen Smith, Commissioner** told the Commission a little about himself. He said he has lived in Rockville for 22 years. He has worked for a non-profit in the District of Columbia. He has done an education exchange between Asia and the United States. He speaks Chinese. He was the director of an adult day care that provided transportation, full time health care, and food service. He said he is very patient and in tune with senior needs. **Dr. Judith Mairs, Commissioner** introduced herself. She said she is excited to be part of this community. She said she is originally from Canada. She lived in Princeton for 10 years and then back to Canada. She relocated to Rockville 5 years ago and lives in North Bethesda. She has a doctorate in Public Health. She sits on several boards. She speaks a few different languages, predominantly French. She loves people and languages and is looking forward to serving on this Commission. **Chair, Anne Herbster** thanked both and everyone else took a turn introducing themselves.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked if anyone had and changes or comments to add to the minutes. There were none. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** made a motion to approve the June 16, 2022, minutes as presented. **Carla McCaffrey, Commissioner** seconded it. All were in favor.

Trish Evans reported on the Villages next. She said there is a lot going on in the village community. Woottons Mill Village is working on getting started. They will be holding a Happy Hour on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 5:30 PM in the Rockshire Giant parking lot to continue the conversation about building a village. It is a bring your own, chair, snacks, and beverage. West End Village is in the beginning stages. Town Center Village has been meeting for the last 2-3 years. The meetings have been more of a social gathering, and they are looking to do more service-oriented events. Twinbrook Village has voted to dissolve, but there is a renewed interest to continue from people who joined as it was dissolving. The National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 2, 2022. It will be a busy night for the Police and the Village facilitator. She said she is working with staff at the Senior Center and local businesses to partner with the Senior Center to encourage more interest in the center by way of raffles, prizes, and advertisement for the back of the buses. The advertisement changes or renews every 3 months. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** asked why the Twinbrook Village dissolved and **Chair, Anne Herbster** said it was hard to get anyone to step up. The leader had to retire after 5 ½ years of serving. It wasn't sustainable mainly due to the pandemic. **Trish Evans** said she will talk to **Terri Hilton** about getting training nationally for this problem and she has consulted with the County as well. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said she will be presenting her FY22 Annual Report to the Mayor and Council in the fall and it can include an update on the Villages movement. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** suggested bringing it up as Old/New Business. **Carla McCaffrey, Commissioner** made a motion to present the FY22 Annual Report and an update on the Villages movement to the Mayor and Council under Old/New Business in the fall. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** seconded it. All were in favor. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** reported on the 40th Anniversary Open House next. She said it was a great event. It was for current and new members and families. There was a table for RSI and Senior Citizens Commission to answer questions. There were tours and presentations throughout the building. There was a magician for entertainment and a raffle. Over 140 people attended. The last event to celebrate the 40th Anniversary, Recreation and Parks month, and the 10th Anniversary of the Fitness center is an Ice Cream Social with the Carnation Players

performing on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. The Green House should be completed in 2 weeks. There has been a 2-month delay. She said she received an email from a not so happy family member of a resident at Bethany House. There is a pending lawsuit due to safety issues. Residents and family members are concerned with the building being unsafe and uncomfortable. There are several vacancies. Poor management is a big issue. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked if the City provided and financial support to this building. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** said she would ask the Director of Finance and the Deputy Director of Finance. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said that we are providing financial assistance to replace carpeting from a grant. Residents on the Lane are complaining about not being able to reach the building manager for repairs and other items.

Chair, Anne Herbster brought up a letter she received regarding the Potomac Valley Sidewalk Improvement Project. It will run along the west/south of Potomac Valley Road between Maryland Avenue/Falls Road to New Mark Esplanade. The project is part of the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. This program is designed to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities throughout the city, by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the transportation mobility options available. The project will connect the missing sidewalk for the Potomac Valley Nursing & Wellness Center and bridge a gap in the Potomac Valley neighborhood by providing a continuous pedestrian connection from Falls Road/ Maryland Avenue to New Mark Esplanade. After much discussion, **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** made a motion to do more research and gain more information before acting on this. **Stephen Smith, Commissioner** seconded it. All were in favor. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said we will bring it up again in a future meeting.

Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison reported that the last Mayor and Council meeting before their recess will be on August 1, 2022. It will be virtual and abbreviated. Vision Zero update and status of Vision Zero Master Plan will be on the agenda. There will be a few consent agendas and proclamations. There will be a discussion about RedGate design. There will be a King Farm Farmstead Market report. There will be a Rockville Goes Purple proclamation to bring awareness about Opioid and Fentanyl addiction. There will be discussion on implementation of 20/40 Master Plan and changing zoning. August 25 is National Opioid Awareness Day. The city will be partnering with the county for programs in September, Let's Talk About It will be one of the programs. There will also be purple lights at all the facilities. National Night Out will be on August 2, 2022. There was a request from Peerless Rockville to have 406 Great Falls Road put in Historic District. It was denied by Mayor and Council by the sectional map amendment. She thanked **Chair, Anne Herbster** for a great meeting and her leadership.

Liaison/groups:

RSI: Nothing reported.

Pete Sante Fund: Nothing reported.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM. **Next meeting:** August 18, 2022 –Virtual – 10:00 AM