

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

October 20, 2022, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

Members Present: Anne Herbster, Chair; Jack Sprague, Commissioner; Judith Jolie, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison

Staff: Alexis D'Angelo Swope; Fran Jablonski; Trish Evans; Terri Hilton Guest: Fran Miller, resident
Absent: Carla McCaffrey, Commissioner; Stephen Smith, Commissioner; Elaine Koubek, 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 said this **will not be an official meeting because there isn't a quorum**. She said this meeting will be discussion and information only.

Chair, Anne Herbster reported that **Carla McCaffrey, Commissioner** will have to step down due to a scheduling conflict. She continued reporting and said she is looking for people interested in serving on the board and participate in more than just meetings once a month. Anyone who is interested needs to attend one meeting before they are appointed to see what is involved. The Commission needs to talk about a succession planning. The Chair is a two-year appointment and has served for three years. She would like to move on and give someone else the opportunity to serve as Chair. She would like to see each of the Commissioners volunteer for a committee, such as isolation, communication, senior housing, or any other item that would pertain to seniors and report information from that committee back to the Commission at each meeting. Seniors represent 25-30% of the population in Rockville. The Commission can be a powerful voice to bring ideas and suggestions of the needs of seniors to the Mayor and Council. More people need to get involved. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** totally endorsed all of these ideas. She suggested budget advocacy. She said this group has the power to advocate for Senior Services operating expenses and petition for the funds needed. **Chair, Anne Herbster** would like to get the word out that resources are available in the Support Services Division of the Senior Center. **Trish Evans** said we have a partnership with the Police Department. They have business cards that list the services the Senior Center provides that they give to people when they respond to a call. The Police Department now has a Mental Health Resource Officer position that is contracted with Health and Human Services (HHS), of Montgomery County. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** asked if there is any critical need to have in the senior budget now. **Terri Hilton** said our security cameras need an upgrade. The cameras are necessary for security and keeping track of the seniors in the building. The cost is estimated at \$22,000 and it is in the budget for FY24. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** said she really wants to look at this for the current budget. **Terri Hilton** said the center is also working on a project to reach seniors in isolation. She said one out of six seniors are living alone. It will be a multi-level program. Other departments in the city will be participating and sending referrals of seniors in need. The proposed name would be Senior Without Walls. It will be presented in the next budget. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** asked how to reach concerned seniors 70+ to volunteer to help with the issues that have been discussed. **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** would like to see a two-part lunch and learn to talk about Loneliness and Isolation. **Judith Jolie, Commissioner** said she likes what she has heard so far and would be willing to work with Terri Hilton in some capacity. She suggested we need more of an outreach for the isolation seniors feel. She said maybe we could set up a task force of volunteers to make daily calls, etc. and is willing to help with this. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said she will investigate the status of the Mental Health position. **Trish Evans** said the idea of partnerships is an excellent one and so many more can be reached by referrals. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said the next meeting will be hybrid and **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** will reserve a room. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** will send an email blast looking for Commissioners and will provide **Chair, Anne Herbster's** email address.

Chair, Anne Herbster said she will list on Facebook King Farm's email distribution list. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** asked if an email blast for all 60+ in registration system and on Channel 11 advertising for volunteers. **Trish Evans** said she would recruit for Commissioners at the four Village groups that will meet in the next few weeks. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said she could set up at table for the Commission at the Halloween event on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said she would be there. She also said that the next meeting will be about deciding on what the Commission will be focusing on, volunteers, and budget. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said she would have Michelle Riemer from the Senior Center Staff create a poster for volunteer recruitment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM. Next meeting: November 17, 2022 -Hybrid-10:00 AM