

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

January 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

Members Present: Anne Herbster, Chair; Stephen Smith, Commissioner; Elaine Koubek, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Kevin Leary, Commissioner

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

Absent: Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison

Guest: Diane Fuchs; College Gardens resident

Chair, Anne Herbster started the meeting at 10:15 a.m. She started by sharing the agenda and having everyone introduce themselves to our guest, **Diane Fuchs**.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked for any comments or changes to the November minutes. **Stephen Smith, Commissioner** said the word sots in the first paragraph should be changed to slots. **Stephen Smith, Commissioner** made a motion to approve the minutes with the suggested change, **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** seconded. All were in favor. **Chair, Anne Herbster** thanked **Elaine Koubek, Commissioner** for the luncheon she provided to the Commission at Brightview Senior Living in December.

Andrea Rogers reported next. She said that the months of December and January are typically slow. She has had less calls and walk-ins. She said that she and **Mariella Correal** have started a series of micro workshops, What's What Wednesdays, enlisting people who work with Seniors on various issues. **Will Mohan, Community Ministries of Rockville/Senior Reach**, was the first presenter. He spoke about senior housing, care giving services and food services. **Andrea Rogers** said that she and **Mariella Correal** will host a housing fair in July 2023. There will be a section of resources for people that want to live independently. **Chair, Anne Herbster** requested that resources for shared housing are included. **Andrea Rogers** said the housing fair will be listed in the Summer 60+ Guide and she and she and **Mariella Correal** will do the marketing for it. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked for a status on Bethany House Apartments. **Andrea Rogers** said she has not heard anything other than they are looking to replace the manager. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said that **Andrea Rogers** and **Mariella Correal** have been working with residents there to help them with their need.

Trish Evans reported on Villages next. She said she is very busy and there are a lot of upcoming events. She said there was an event tonight at Dawson's Market, West Rockville Connects Village, headed by **Diane Fuchs**. King Farm is booming. They are continuing with monthly programming, guest speakers, and transportation. East Rockville Village would like to create a website, but don't have the capability at this time. They also want to do an urban garden. Wootton's Mill is brand new and want to do a welcome back kickoff at the Thomas Farm Community Center on Saturday, it is a way to bring community together. Town Center will be sharing their new logo created by the City's graphic artist. They will hold a pizza night at Giuseppe's on Tuesday evening to promote it. It will be promoted all over, parking garages, businesses, etc. Rockville Village quarterly forum will be held on Saturday at 10:00 AM. There will be a guest speaker to share ideas. **Trish Evans** said she has been working for the city for six years and that it has been great to work here. **Diane Fuchs** said she wanted to give her kudos for all she has accomplished in her six years. **Chair, Anne Herbster** thanked her.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope reported next. She said the center started the year with the progressive appetizer New Year event. It was very successful and well attended. She said that the International Day event may follow the same format. She said the staff is working on the Spring 60+ Guide, making edits and trying to incorporate ideas seniors want to see. She said **Betty Figure** is recuperating from hip replacement surgery. She asked everyone to give input on mural on the back of the building and will resend the link. She said that **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison**, let her know that the Mayor and Council did approve funding for the Safe Security Initiative. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said that the

center should be updating the current cameras soon. **Chair, Anne Herbster** inquired how participation has been. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said it has been good. Trips have been full. Most classes are full. A lot of classes offered are hybrid. **Trish Evans** said there were 100 seniors at the Ring in The New Year program. It was a very diverse group, and everyone had so much fun. She also talked about the On Demand Fitness recorded fitness classes that **Chris Klopfer** created at a reduced rate for people to participate in when the session ended until the new session begins. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said the green house is up and running and will be utilized more in the spring.

Chair, Anne Herbster said the Commission needs to elect a new Chairperson next month.

Kevin Leary, Commissioner said that he attended the mural meetings and there is another one on the 23rd. He will attend and meet the artists interested in this project. He asked about caregivers' grant panel. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** replied that **Judith Jolie, Commissioner** is on that panel, more reports to come from her in the future.

Chair, Anne Herbster shared four focus areas and which Commissioner would be working on each:

- Communication **Chair, Anne Herbster, Kevin Leary, Commissioner**
- Isolation **Judith Jolie, Commissioner, Krishna Kumar, Commissioner**
- Programming: **Elaine Koubek, Commissioner, Stephen Smith, Commissioner**
- Housing **The Commission**

Chair, Anne Herbster said at the next meeting she would like to see one or two things that each group would like to work on in the next ten months and what support each group needs to accomplish their goals. She asked **Elaine Koubek, Commissioner** and **Stephen Smith, Commissioner** to get a plan together of one or two topics they could focus on in terms of programs. **Smith, Commissioner** asked where someone goes to for practical advice for Wills and Advanced Directives. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said she is having a lawyer speak about that in the Spring and she is still searching for a volunteer nurse to come in once a week to do blood pressure screenings. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** if he could fine tune his proposal and focus on one or two items this year and coordinate with **Judith Jolie, Commissioner** to do a short presentation next month. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked **Kevin Leary, Commissioner** to meet to work on areas of communication to reach as many seniors as possible. **Kevin Leary, Commissioner** said he has ideas to share when they get together. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said she wants to know the City's position on safe, affordable housing for seniors. Each group will have fifteen minutes to present ideas, timeline, the funds, or resources needed, and what impact you hope to see. She asked **Diane Fuchs** to attend the next meeting and consider joining the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM. **Next meeting:** February 16, 2023 –Virtual – 10:00 AM