

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

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

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

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

Absent: Norma Brailsford, Commissioner

Guest: Randy Alton, Resident

Chair, Anne Herbster started the meeting at 10:00 a.m. She started with greetings and well wishes to everyone. Randy Alton is a guest speaker today. A discussion of how to spend the budget needs to be added to the Agenda. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** announced that a two Covid Test Kits per household distribution will occur today and tomorrow at 4:00 Rockville Civic Center and at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church at 4:00 tomorrow.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked if there are any comments or changes to the minutes from November 18, 2022. There were none. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner** made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. **Lynn Wagman, Commissioner** seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Chair, Anne Herbster introduced **Randy Alton**. He is an advocate for the concerns of seniors west of I-270. He is expressing the need for a meeting place in that part of Rockville and suggested leasing space in the Rockshire Shopping Center. He is requesting the City to open the area off Gude Drive to give greater access to the Senior Center. Additional parking space is also a need. He also raised concerns about the lack of communication and connectivity with this group of seniors. He also requested improved signage throughout Rockville directing people to the Senior Center. He is asking for the Commission to support him and bring these requests and concerns to the Mayor and Council. After some discussion among the Commissions and with **Randy Alton** it was decided to table further discussion until the next meeting.

Terri Hilton reported that the ADA renovations are complete. The next project is the Green House. It will be demolished and rebuilt. The Fitness area is booming. The Fitness classes have moved to the virtual format. There is a small amount participating in the lunch program. Some of the Recreation programs have changed to hybrid and the materials for some of the programs are delivered to the participants homes to keep them engaged in programs virtually. **Trish Evans** said that having a hybrid model has increased the capacity to participate in programs. It gives the seniors the ability to participate from their homes.

Trish Evans reported on the Villages. She said they are doing great. The Twinbrook Village is looking for technology assistance and are developing partnerships with group women housing. They helped the residents of Town Center Apartments transition to Upton II. Coming soon The Villages will open trivia night for all villages and communities.

Andrea Rogers reported that housing continues to be the big topic. Some want to be in Town Center. She is working on issues with tax items, increase in dental insurance, wanting to know the date of their move to Upton II. Some have received move in dates, signed vouchers and leases. The moves can only be done at the beginning and end of each month. **Chair, Anne Herbster** suggested that the subject of housing could be put on the April Agenda. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** said there is a new developer that may have a proposal for housing that will include a community center. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said that there will be someone from the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County holding a presentation to speak about housing locations in Rockville and programs they offer on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 10:00 AM. **Chair, Anne Herbster** requested to have the link for

this program sent to the Commission members. There will also be a presentation on ways to save on Utility Bills on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM. Coming up, the Senior Center will be working with Montgomery County to get in home COVID tests distributed to Seniors. **Andrea Rogers** and **Mariella Correal** will be assisting with the distribution. AARP will be back to help Seniors with taxes on Mondays from February 4, 2022 to April 15, 2022.

There are currently two vacancies on the Commission.

Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison reported that on Monday night they will be discussing a proposed Education Commission and parkland dedication requirements. She said the future agendas are packed and the 20/40 Master Plan is on most of them. There will be extra meetings for zoning and land use, and it is a big job to implement all the items recommended. There are over 500 recommendations. Staff came up with a matrix and spread sheet. It will be a short, mid, and long-term implementation. There will be two meetings to discuss what the implementation should be for the short term. The near term is the comp plan starting on Monday night and the second meeting will be on February 7, 2022. There is a lot of city-wide interest in RedGate Park concept plan alternatives. A final decision has not been made as to what to do with RedGate Park. The idea of a Veteran Home and Housing is off the table. Other things that have been suggested are, walking paths, renovate the Club House to use as a venue

Chair, Anne Herbster said they need to have a conversation and vote on how the Commission feels about the Gude Drive access at the next meeting.

Liaison/groups:

RSI: Nothing reported

Pete Sante Fund: Nothing reported

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

Chair, Anne Herbster thanked everyone for their input and attending.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. **Next meeting:** February 17, 2022 – Virtual – 10:00 AM