

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

January 23, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Anne Herbster, Chair; Norma Brailsford; Commissioner; Lynn Wagman, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Mike Laux, Commissioner; Alicia Seymour, Commissioner

Absent: Jack Sprague, Commissioner

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

Chair, Anne Herbster opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with introductions.

Old Business: **Commissioner Lynn Wagman** made a motion to approve the October 17, 2019 and November 21, 2019 minutes as presented, **Commissioner Krishna Kumar** seconded, all were in favor.

New Business: **Chair, Anne Herbster** said the Commission needs to come up with the 2019 report to present to the Mayor and Council to include USM Advocacy awareness, Community Outreach awareness, identifying needs and services, progress of Villages, and be the voice of aging in Rockville. Will reach out to former board member, **Jill Cornish** to see if she is willing to be the voice of aging and go in front of the Mayor and Council and relay the needs of seniors and topics of aging. The Villages play a major role in addressing the needs of seniors. Aging in place was the primary idea, but now it is more about social connectedness and support. Seniors need extra engagement, they are the biggest beneficiaries of Villages.

The Commission and Staff discussed goals as a group. They decided on the following:

1. Community Outreach
2. Services
3. Aging (what is going on)
4. Advocacy/Legislation
5. Villages

Just a brief presentation for the Mayor and Council is all that is necessary.

Chair, Anne Herbster said she will be able to attend the February meeting, but will be away for the March meeting and will phone in. The goal is to present the report to the Mayor and Council on the last Monday in March.

Staff Reports: **Martha McClelland** thanked the Commission and Staff for all the gifts provided to the people in need during the Holidays. She said the grandmother and grandson were very grateful. She reported there is a new program, Talk to Staff. It is very casual and is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10:00-10:30 in the dining room. The Deputy Chief of Police will attend and talk to seniors. Anyone from the Commission and Staff are welcome to attend. The meetings will be ongoing.

Andrea Rogers said housing with needs is the hot topic the last couple of months. Need to provide education for ones approaching medicare age. They need to know what to do and what to apply for it and health care. **Alexis D'Angelo** said there will a gentleman coming in from Senior Health Insurance Program, SHIP, to give a lecture in February and will be holding half hour meetings on the first Wednesday of the month starting on March 4, 2020 through December 2 from 10:00 to 12:00. **Andrea Rogers** said Raphael from SHIP was helpful and received good information for a client that has pre-existing conditions. She said dementia is the next hot topic and has been looking at available programs outside of the Center. **Andrea Rogers** and **Martha McClelland** have been keeping an eye on possible attendees for the upcoming "Memory Screening" on March 20, 2020. It will run all day. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked the Commission if they would be interested in having **Sheila Griffith, Alzheimer's Association** attend a meeting and talk about her program and what she does and what she is seeing in the County.

Alexis D'Angelo reported that interviews will be held for **Karen Lumpkin's** vacant position when she returns in early February. It is currently a part time, 30 hour a week, benefitted position. In fiscal year 2021, it is proposed to be increased to a 37.5 hour a week, position. She has no ADA news to report. The new floor, new furniture and two existing stations in the front office will be installed next week.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked about membership numbers. **Alexis D'Angelo** said she will have to research that. She also said that the amount for both resident and non-resident may increase. If someone needs help with the fees, they can apply for program assistance funds. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked the status of funds for the center. **Alexis D'Angelo** said that **Chris Klopfer's** programs bring in the most revenue. The program assistance fund helps the ones that need it to pay for programs. Most of **Chris Klopfer's** classes are held at the center and at Twinbrook. We provide bus transportation for the class at Twinbrook. The center is at capacity for space. The parking lot is not too much of an issue currently.

Chair, Anne Herbster said the Department of Veterans Affairs reached out and asked if we would consider a proposal to the Mayor and Council to build housing on 25 acres of RedGate land for dementia care and aging veterans. **Commissioner Alicia Seymour** said she will reach out to see what the status is. **Commissioner Lynn Wagman** made a motion to understand more about the Veterans Affairs request for RedGate space for veterans housing. **Commissioner Mike Laux** seconded it, all were in favor.

Commissioner Krishna Kumar made a motion to have someone from Recreation and Parks come in to talk about the vision for RedGate property. **Commissioner Mike Laux** seconded it, all were in favor.

Trish Evans reported on the Villages. **Twinbrook** is working on a website and are very close to launching. King Farm is going strong and is only 60+ group so far. East Rockville Village meets once a month, it is multi-generational. Every event has kids and varying ages attending. They are trying to grow their base. They hold their meetings on the 1st Sunday at the Pump House. They will be holding a pre-game bagels and coffee on Super Bowl Sunday. Town Center is showing great enthusiasm from all buildings. 31 people attended the December potluck brunch. January was not as well attended, it was held early in the day, so next time will try later in the afternoon. Susan Burn from Martins Lane would like to host a coffee and talk about Villages at 1:00 on February 9. Hungerford is a great community and were working on reviving the association but decided that they want to become a Village instead. They are most interested in becoming part of the non-profit RAVE. They are a very energetic and young group. She said she would love to see more from Lincoln Park and Tower Oaks.

Committee Reports:

Subcommittees will be sent out via email and members will choose which committee at next meeting.

Liaison Reports:

Rockville Seniors, Inc., (RSI): Commissioner Krishna Kumar reported that RSI agreed to buy tables for the center, they will provide \$12,000.00.

Pete Sante Fund: Commissioner Lynn Wagman won \$300.00 for the raffle and donated \$100.00 to RSI. **Commissioner Krishna Kumar** purchased \$20.00 in tickets and gave to the staff and the Commission.

United Seniors of Maryland (USM) Forum: Alexis D'Angelo informed the Commission that she, **Commissioner Norma Brailsford** and additional members attended the Senior Legislative Forum in the State Senate Building in Annapolis on Tuesday, January 14, 8am - 1pm. They talked about medical cannabis, senior abuse, and visited with members of the House of Delegates. 150 attended, 15 from Montgomery County.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next meeting: February 20, 2019, 10 a.m.