

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

February 16, 2023, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

**Members Present:** Anne Herbster, Chair; Stephen Smith, Commissioner; Elaine Koubek, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Judith Jolie, Commissioner

**Staff:** Alexis D'Angelo Swope; Trish Evans; Mariella Correal; Andrea Rogers

**Absent:** Kevin Leary, Commissioner Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison

**Guest:** Diane Fuchs; College Gardens resident, Richard Rosano; Potomac Woods resident

**Chair, Anne Herbster** started the meeting at 10:05 a.m. She asked new guest to introduce himself. Richard Rosano is a proud citizen of Rockville with wife, daughter, and daughter in law. He and his wife were members of the Center prior to COVID. He is an author, 11 books in print.

**Chair, Anne Herbster** asked **Judith Jolie, Commissioner** for an update on the Caregivers Grant Panel. **Judith Jolie, Commissioner** shared there were 23 grant applications and the panel consisted of 5 participants, the final meeting was the week prior.

**Andrea Rogers** reported next. She introduced herself, position, and work at the Center. Recently receiving home care service requests, housing questions and needs in transportation resources. *What's What Wednesday* had their second successful meeting with Montgomery Fire and Rescue and the importance of the File of Life. She also shared she read that Holiday Inn (located in Gaithersburg) might be turned into Senior Housing through Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC). **Mariella Correal** is planning home visits with a senior in need at a local senior apartment. **Mariella Correal** continues to assist in language translation.

**Trish Evans** reported on Villages next, as well as gave a background of her position in the city. She is keeping busy with several upcoming events. Woodley Gardens had a pizza night with 20 neighbors. Their next event is 'What Lies Beneath,' a history walking tour. The very first Lincoln Park event will try to reach neighbors with a free pizza night and teach the concept of Villages. King Farm is very active, also the only 60+ Village in the area. Wootton Mills is planning a bagel gathering in March.

**Alexis D'Angelo Swope** shared mental health services are a high need to help combat social isolation and loneliness. As well as invited the Commission to visit the senior housing in the area to get a better feel of what is out there. She provided a list of upcoming classes, which included topics that have been discussed with the Commission. And she provided a friendly reminder that the election is coming this November, and that we usually hold a senior forum.

**Chair, Anne Herbster** shared four focus areas of focus and opened the floor to each group to give an overview.

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

**Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** and **Judith Jolie, Commissioner** met earlier in the week and discussed they want to focus on building awareness in the city to those who might not know about the large population that is socially isolated. They would also like to recognize those seniors who want and need help. Their budget needs would be in workshops, snacks, and fliers.

**Elaine Koubek, Commissioner** and **Stephen Smith, Commissioner** discusses lectures to bring people together. Some topics provided: Wills and Estates Planning, Opioid, Scams, and Writing workshops. **Elaine Koubek, Commissioner** plans to have some of these topics at Brightview West End and invites all to come. And **Stephen Smith, Commissioner** already spoke to a couple organizations that could provide these presentations. They also discussed the Commission to pick a project and volunteer their time as a team. 'It would be a great community project,' **Elaine Koubek, Commissioner** added.

**Chair, Anne Herbster** said her and **Kevin Leary, Commissioner** want the communication and resources to get out to a broad audience. '35% of the city will be over 65 by 2025, let's build awareness through platforms such as Villages, community groups, Rockville Reports, Channel 11, social media, and more.' They would also like to provide resources in other languages.

**Chair, Anne Herbster** went on to provide the role of the Chair and opened the floor to discuss voting for a new chair. **Elaine Koubek, Commissioner** presented the idea on Chair and Co-Chair. The group voted to decide next month with a full quorum.

January minutes were approved by the Commission after one edit was made to eliminate previous Commission members on the minutes (as they can no longer serve.) **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** made a motion, **Judith Jolie, Commissioner** seconded, all were in favor of approval.

**Chair, Anne Herbster** plans to share a note to Mayor and Council, in appreciation of the upgrade of security cameras in the Senior Center and make note about the potential entrance on Gude drive.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM. **Next meeting:** March 16, 2023 –Virtual – 10:00 AM