

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

February 20, 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; Councilmember Beryl Feinberg, Liaison

Absent: Jack Sprague, Commissioner

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

Guests: Fran Miller, Member; Dave Peterson, Maryland Military Coalition; Catherine Kirk Robbins, Affordable Health Care Initiative

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

Dave Peterson from Maryland Military Coalition gave a power point presentation to request the Commission to endorse the Maryland Military Coalition's request for the City of Rockville to donate 10 – 25 acres of the Red Gate land for a Second Veteran's Home. The State can't purchase land. The State of Maryland would operate the facility. It would be close to the Outpatient Clinic for veteran's located on Gaither Road. The State needs a decision by Spring so they can inform the Feds and receive funding for construction. Springfield Hospital in Sykesville is considering donating some of their land. **Dave Peterson** concluded his presentation at 10:30 after some questions and discussion from the Commission and staff.

Catherine Kirk Robbins from Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative spoke regarding Prescription Drug Affordability. Maryland patients can't afford drugs. The costs threaten their financial stability. Health Insurance premiums and drug costs have become astronomical. It makes the health care costs rise for everyone. Public health being threatened. It is an economic health care issue. We need to do something to bring the costs down. She said there is a five-member board tasked to looking at high cost of drugs. She asked the Commission to endorse this coalition and help to define their work going forward. She asked to inform people if they are not insured to check the box on their tax form. She asked if there was a group at the center that they give information to. **Alexis D'Angelo** said she could reserve a table anytime. She also suggested that the Health Fair would be a good place to set up a table and reach a lot of people. **Catherine Kirk Robbins** said their organization is a 501 3 C and a 501 4 C organization. They are funded by foundations, grants, AARP and Unions. They also provide education services. She concluded her presentation at 11:00 after questions and discussion from the Commission and Staff.

Chair Anne Herbster asked to discuss both and take position and motion on both. After some discussion among Commission and staff **Commissioner Alicia Seymour** made a motion that Rockville Senior Citizens Commission should vote in support to donate land to the veterans. **Commissioner Lynn Wagman** seconded it. Four in favor, two opposed. **Commissioner Lynn Wagman** made a motion to be included in the prior motion, that the max amount of land to be donated would be no more than 10 acres.

Commissioner Alicia Seymour seconded it. Five were in favor, one opposed. The Commission and staff then discussed the Health Care Initiative. **Commissioner Alicia Seymour** made a motion that the Commission sign the initiative. **Commissioner Mike Laux** seconded it. **Commissioner Norma Brailsford** abstained.

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 there will be a new Commissioner joining the group. Her name is Elaine Koubek. She will be appointed on Monday night.

The Commission and Staff discussed goals as a group at the meeting in January. They decided on the following and the discussion will continue in March:

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 will phone in for the March meeting. The goal is to present the report to the Mayor and Council on the last Monday in March.

Staff Reports: **Martha McClelland** reported that there will be some nursing students taking a tour next week. They are studying Geriatrics. Someone from the Police department will be coming in to discuss pedestrian safety. There was going to be a presentation on April 2 from 10:00-12:30 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater on pedestrian safety, **Shawn Brennan** from Montgomery County and **Alyssa Roff**, Public Works are going to have a resource table set up.

Andrea Rogers said housing is still the hot topic. She said Town Center is not adding to the list to the new Upton Apartments.

Phase 2 is projected to be done by the fall of 2020. All affordable housing has a wait list. **Chair, Anne Herbster** asked the Commission if that is something that Red Gate should be used for and what did the Commission think the land should be used for. It was decided that would be a discussion in the future and should be included in the letter to the Mayor and Council on March 23.

Committee Reports:

Nothing reported.

Liaison Reports:

Rockville Seniors, Inc., (RSI): Nothing reported

Pete Sante Fund: Nothing reported.

United Seniors of Maryland (USM) Forum: Nothing reported

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Next meeting: March 19, 2020 **CANCELLED – BUILDING CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**