

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

March 17, 2022, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

Members Present: Anne Herbster, Chair; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Jack Sprague, Commissioner; Norma Brailsford, Commissioner; Kevin Leary, Commissioner; Carla McCaffrey, Commissioner.

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

Absent: Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison; Lynn Wagman; Commissioner, Elaine Koubek, Commissioner

Chair, Anne Herbster started the meeting at 10:00 a.m. She started with greetings and well wishes to everyone. She introduced two new Commissioners to the Commission, **Kevin Leary**, a long time Rockville resident and lives in Twinbrook. He said he saw the vacancy for the Commission and would like to give back and is looking forward to working with everyone. He is 65 and works for Sodexo in Gaithersburg. The other new Commissioner is **Carla McCaffrey**, a resident since 1973 and lives in Rockshire. She is the school librarian at Lakewood Elementary School and is glad to be part of the Commission. **Chair, Anne Herbster** explained that the Commission's role is to identify, recommend and push forward ideas and suggestions, regarding the needs of the Seniors to the Mayor and Council.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked everyone if they had any comments or changes to the minutes from February 17, 2022. There were none. **Jack Sprague, Commissioner**, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** seconded. All were in favor.

Terri Hilton reported that trips have restarted. There will be four trips. Two will be local adventures using our Senior Center buses. One to Bowling and Lunch at Pinstripes and one to True Respite Microbrewery. The other two trips will use charter buses. One will be to a Washington Nationals baseball game and one to the Cherry Blossom Lunch Cruise. Spring registration is currently going on. Some classes are in person, on-line or phone in. The green house construction is underway. They are currently running plumbing. The completion date is the end of May.

Trish Evans reported next. She said exciting things are happening with the Villages. East Side Live will be at the Pump House Park on May 1, 2022. It is a Blues, Jazz concert. An event for all ages to bring the community together. There will be another one at the end of June. It will be a Rockville swing band. She said she is looking for a variety of artists that live in Rockville. West Rockville Village had a meeting last night and finalized their logo. Their first meet and greet event is on April 29. There will be snacks and a survey. Sunday will be the first meeting of Rockshire/Fallsmead Village. There will be six groups getting the conversation started. Town Center Village lost a member, Jerry Berner, on Tuesday night. The Village is rallying around his wife.

Andrea Rogers reported that it is a little quiet right now. Two of her regulars are out of the hospital. She is helping them with their mail and other things. Town Center Apartments, 90 Monroe Street, is signing the lease for the new building, Upton II. It has been five years in the making. Some of the residents that have moved are leery of the new stove. It is very high tech. **Mariella Correal** has trained a few residents how to use the stove. Affordable housing for seniors continues to be a big issue. Bethany House has some vacancies but is in desperate need of repairs and a concern. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said Bethany House will be receiving funding to replace carpeting, etc. She has heard from families that the office staff is not responsive or helpful with them or the residents. The Senior Center is trying to work with Code Enforcement on some of the issues and work with their staff on behavior. The City has tried to get involved and request a lower rent increase without success. The increase had stayed at 6%. **Andrea Rogers** said she is reluctant to recommend Bethany House to anyone even though there is a lack of affordable senior housing.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope reported that there will be an upcoming virtual class titled, Home Share. She said she will send

the link to the Commissioners. She said she is working with Stephanie Moore, from the Housing Opportunities Commission, HOC, to attend the next Commission meeting and talk about housing in Rockville. She is working with Kathy Danzler, City of Rockville Director of Public Information, to attend a meeting and discuss communication to seniors. She said 500 participants signed up for Spring fitness classes. There are four trips this year and they are all full. (There is a wait list.)

Chair, Anne Herbster talked about Mayor and Council budget meetings. She asked Commissioners to sign up to speak at a city budget public hearing for an entrance off Gude Drive into the parking lot only and additional parking for the Senior Center. She asked the Commissioners to think about how they would like to use the \$300.00 annual budget. She asked for ideas for next months meeting. She suggested something for the new greenhouse, technology, scholarship, bus wrap advertisement, or a welcome summer event such as a greenhouse open house.

Liaison/groups:

RSI: Nothing reported.

Pete Sante Fund: Nothing reported.

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

Chair, Anne Herbster said that next month's meeting may be in person and virtual. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** invited both **Kevin Leary, Commissioner** and **Carla McCafrey, Commissioner** to call and arrange for a tour of the center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM. **Next meeting:** April 21, 2022 – In- Person and Virtual – 10:00 AM