

**HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 9, 2019  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Rockville City Hall**

**Members Present:**

Nancy Sushinsky, Caregiver Member  
Deborah Moore, Consumer Member  
Krishna Kumar, At-large Member  
Stacey Erd, Caregiver Member

Laurie Gira, Caregiver Member  
Mark Pascu, At-large Member  
Emily Pearce, At-large Member  
Leon Suskin, At-large Member

**Members Absent:**

Andrew Buchholz, At-large Member  
Ciriaco Gonzales, At-large Member, Chair

Jen Lafferty, At-large Member

**Mayor and Council Liaison Present:**

Councilmember Beryl Feinberg

**Staff Present:** Carlos Aparicio, Community Service Manager  
Cynthia Kebba, Principal Planner

**Re: Call Meeting to Order**

Carlos Aparicio, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

**RE: Rockville’s Comprehensive Plan**

Carlos Aparicio introduced Cynthia Kebba who stated she was a long-range planner for the City of Rockville. Cynthia Kebba summarized the multiyear process the City has gone through to review the City’s 2002 Comprehensive Plan and to develop a new draft comprehensive plan called ‘Rockville 2040’. A hard copy of the draft plan was circulated and will be made available at the Community Services reception desk. Human Services Advisory Commission members were provided with a one-page summary about where to access the current draft of this plan on the City’s website and how to provide feedback via attendance at public hearings or written testimony. Attention was drawn to the format of the document and commission members were encouraged to look at all draft policies in all chapters, to see if they had comments.

During discussion:

- Krishna Kumar asked if there was an executive summary of this comprehensive plan and was told none existed at this time.
- Deborah Moore sought clarity on how to send written testimony and was told to mail or email information to Cynthia Kebba.

- Emily Pearce questioned the goals of affordable housing. Cynthia Kebba noted the intent is to increase affordable housing within Rockville and not just to establish a percentage achieved. Councilmember Feinberg noted that the City had made changes in the MPU's this past year in order to make more families eligible for affordable housing opportunities. Councilmember Feinberg noted ongoing concern for people with disabilities and military veterans.
- Carlos Aparicio noted that former members of the Human Services Commission participated in meetings with planning staff regarding development of this comprehensive plan. However, since the commission now has many new members, all present were strongly encouraged to participate in the current review of the plan. Individual comments or joint recommendations from the commission itself are welcome.
- Marc Pascu asked if the draft plan included any health plan issues and was told none at this time outside of healthy life style opportunities available via the City parks and recreational programs.

#### **RE: Polystyrene Legislation Language**

Carlos Aparicio distributed copies of the current draft Article IV Single Use Plastic Straw Use and provided time for all to read the document.

Through discussion the following changes were recommended and unanimously approved via a motion by Mark Pascu and seconded by Leon Suskin:

- Under Sec. 20-60 Definitions item (4)
  - Insert "that may be" between "polypropylene material" and "used". This clarifies that a straw stirrer should be banned and relates content of the first and second sentences of the section.
  - Add "glass" to the list of type of straws.
- Under Sec. 20-62
  - Item (1) insert at the very beginning of the statement "Single use plastic" before "straws". This establishes clarity for what type of straw as stated in the second sentence of the same section.
  - Item (2) change the word "recyclable" to "recycled" in order to be consisted with the action of "composted" with in the same sentence.

Carlos Aparicio will provide these recommendations to Mark Charles, Chief of Environment Management.

#### **RE: Introduction of Krishna Kumar**

Carlos Aparicio introduced Krishna Kumar, the newest member of the Human Services Advisory Commission, and asked him to share information about himself. Then each member of the commission introduced themselves and briefly highlighted their backgrounds as it related to the work of the commission.

### **RE: Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan**

Carlos Aparicio presented information on the draft of a Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan. It was noted that in the past the Recreation and Parks Department has used a PROS plan as a statement of its vision and scope. This strategic plan (for the next five to ten years) is a new initiative to provide a better guiding document for the vast and very diverse responsibilities within the Recreation and Parks Department where Community Services is located.

Carlos Aparicio noted that Community Services has a long history within the City of Rockville that has seen provision of human services placed administratively in a variety of departments and over time with a reduction of staff from a high once of over 14 FTE's to the current 8.5 positions. To have Community Services placed under Recreation and Parks where it is now is not common in other jurisdictions.

The Human Services Advisory Commissioners were strongly encouraged to review the current draft of the Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan and to provide comments. The commission serves as the advocate voice for human services within the City of Rockville and their voice can influence what services are provided and by whom.

Carlos Aparicio stated the Recreation and Parks Department has been working with Pros Consulting on the development of this strategic plan and he would send commission members a link to the project website [www.rockourfuture.com](http://www.rockourfuture.com).

### **RE: Community Services Division Report**

Carlos Aparicio reported on the following items:

- The **2020 FY City of Rockville Budget** process continues and public comments are welcome. All budgets are very tight, as the City has responded to new needs and demands in the community.
- The **Community Services Program Analyst** vacancy has received 270 applications. The review and selection process continues with the ongoing a hope to have a person in place as soon as possible.
- The **Montgomery County Pre-Release Center** project continues with delivery of rugs, books, etc. The intention is to complete the project in June.
- The Linkages to Learning program will continue off site for another year as the construction of Maryvale Elementary School continues.
- A new partnership with the non-profit **Blockchain Frontiers Foundation** is kicking off to provide support to families for energy efficiency improvements and will be starting on July 1. This program will leverage recipients of CBDG grants and MD State grants with City funding. It is hoped in the first year that approximately 25 families here in Rockville will receive assistance.
- **Regional Youth Services'** grant with Montgomery County is undergoing changes that may impact student access to help at Rockville and Richard Montgomery high schools. Commissioners concurred with Carlos Aparicio that services brought to the students are

more successful in terms of the number served than programs where students have to be transported to a clinic location.

**RE: Caregiver Task Force Report**

Mark Pascu reported that the Caregiver Task Force met in March and at that time split up and delegated needs for drafting recommendations to revamp the process used to issue grants funded by the City of Rockville. The intention is to have a draft document to present to the Mayor and Council on July 15.

**RE: Caregiver Site Visit Report**

Stacey Erd summarized the onsite visit to the Rainbow Place shelter that she participated in. She noted that clearly the services provided are needed and important within our Rockville community. Stacy Erd noted how impressed she was with the responsiveness and warmth of the staff as they interact with the women served in the shelter. The recent bathroom and shower improvements were stated as a strong plus for the facility.

Carlos Aparicio reported that this visit was made in the second year of the grant cycle. Rainbow Place used to be a Rockville Presbyterian Church program but, as of a few years ago, it became its own non-profit program. This change of status creates an opportunity to expand funding through new grant sources, but also generates new responsibilities like insurance at a cost of about \$10,000 a year instead of \$1,000. Rainbow Place is challenged by its: third-floor walkup access within the historic church location; its provision of only seasonal services; plus, the current need to only offer services between 7PM and 7AM due to other daycare and school programs using the same building. The women served are primarily chronically homeless and often dealing with mental issues. Commissioners were reminded that undocumented women are welcome at Rainbow Place but may not be referred to other services.

Deborah Moore thanked Nancy Sushinsky for all the services she oversees at Rainbow Place.

**RE: Montgomery Cares Advocacy Update**

Laurie Gia reported that the Montgomery Care issues have been placed on hold as the County has committed to delaying the implementation of new rules for six months while working with community stakeholders to provide a more favorable implementation plan. She will provide an update prior to the next meeting.

**RE: Other Items**

Deborah Moore sought confirmation the Mobile Med meeting was April 18. Carlos Aparicio confirmed this date.

Carlos Aparicio requested that all members read the draft Comprehensive Plan and bring items for discussion to the May meeting.

**RE: Adjourn**

Deborah Moore, Consumer Representative, moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mark Pascu At-large member, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.