

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

May 18, 2023, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

Members Present: Elaine Koubek, Chair; Kevin Leary, Co- Chair; Stephen Smith, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Judith Jolie, Commissioner; Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison

Absent: Anne Herbster, Commissioner

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

Guest: Lori Newman; Dick Rosano; Ariane Burns; Abe Bruckman

Chair Elaine Koubek and **Co-Chair, Kevin Leary** started the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with welcome and introductions with everyone. **Co-Chair, Kevin Leary** made a motion to approve the April 20, 2023, minutes as presented, **Judith Jolie, Commissioner** seconded it.

Terri Hilton reported next. She said she is waiting on notification of an approval of an AARP grant to take care of enhancing the outdoor space near the Bocce Ball court. It will be a multi-purpose space. The center is working on Spring programs, including fitness and trips. **Trish Evans** gave an update on Villages. She said there has been a lot of new interest lately. Lincoln Park Village had a meeting last Saturday. They discussed partnering with Mt. Calvary Church for a vaccine help day. Woottons Mill Village going well. They just had a Cinco de Mayo celebration. Twenty-five people attended. They are working on the creation of a logo and business cards. They have completed their mission statement. They are working with **Dick Rosano** on a survey. West Rockville Village is working on welcome bags and city information. East Rockville Village had a successful planting event. East Side Live is back and waiting for final approval to hold an event at Isreal Park Pavilion at the end of June. The newsletter will be going out soon and will list all the upcoming events. **Andrea Rogers** reported that she has been visiting with a lot of clients lately. She has been making phone calls to find care givers, housing, and wills. She is closely watching the seniors that are declining. She and **Mariella Correia** are planning/preparing a Housing Fair for July 12, 2023. The first email went out to twenty-five people requesting them to be vendors. As of now there will be an Aging in Place, Home Repairs, PEPCO, Lowes, as well as others. Maryland Durable Medical Equipment was invited. **Trish Evans** will be there for Villages and **Anne Herbster, Commissioner** for Senior Citizens Commission. **Co-Chair, Kevin Leary** asked **Lori Newman** to attend, and both offered to help as well. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said the Senior Center will be having a Health Fair on May 24, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. It is a free event. There will be vendors. Some conducting glaucoma, BMI, and blood pressure screenings. Giant will be giving vaccines. **Lori Newman** inquired about the loan closet and **Terri Hilton** explained that we no longer provide that service. We now partner with Maryland Durable Medical Equipment. There is a big metal container in the back parking lot where people can donate used equipment. Maryland Durable Medical Equipment picks up the donations. They refurbish, sanitize, and have the equipment evaluated by a Physical Therapist. To request the equipment, they must complete the necessary forms and submit to Maryland Durable Medical Equipment. They will be notified of the date that they need to pick up their request from the center. It is a fast turnaround time. It is usually a week to ten days. There is about 25 pieces that get delivered every Thursday. **Chair Elaine Koubek** said she would reach out to other directors of senior living facilities to let them know of this program. It will be a good resource to donate equipment. It is advertised in the 60+ Guide and the newsletter, and flyers. **Trish Evans** said it scrolls on Channel 11. **Terri Hilton** said she will place an ad in Rockville Reports. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said there is another location at the transfer station off Shady Grove Road. She also said that Community Services is doing a Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis and is shared with **Trish Evans** as well. **Chair Elaine Koubek** asked about the status of appointments for the new commissioners. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said that **Dick Rosano** may be this week and possibly **Lori Newman** next. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said she did inform the City Clerk's Office that they both are interested and have attended meetings. **Co-Chair, Kevin Leary** asked **Dick Rosano** if he could work with Programs and **Lori Newman** and **Ariane Burns** on Housing. He asked **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** if there are any statistics on the amount and type of resources provided by the senior center. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said that information is

provided in the Budget Book each year. She said most of the Program Assistance Funds have been used this year. **Co-Chair, Kevin Leary** said someone from the Commission is supposed to attend Hometown Holidays. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said that there may be an opportunity to have a table in the information tent. **Trish Evans** said Rockville Villages will have tables and representatives from various villages there. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** asked if Senior Center stats are in the City Manager reports and **Terri Hilton** replied that we will get **Co-Chair, Kevin Leary** a list to look at. **Co-Chair, Kevin Leary** said the CDC just stated that loneliness and social isolation are linked to serious health conditions and something to watch for. It is becoming a public health emergency. **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** and **Judith Jolie, Commissioner** confirmed they heard this. They are looking at how family members, friends and workshops in the fall will help with it. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** in a joint effort with Community Services is starting work on workshops for Understanding Social Isolation Series and dates. The first workshop will be on July 13, 2023, at 10:30 to 11:30 AM. **Chair Elaine Koubek** and **Stephen Smith, Commissioner** are working on Programming. They are working with **Trish Evans** to get to all areas across Rockville. **Chair Elaine Koubek** said she will plan time to get together to talk. She said the Spring Dance was very successful. She invited anyone interested in programming to join. **Stephen Smith, Commissioner** talked about doing a survey. He thanked **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** and **Fran Jablonski** for sending a copy of the prior survey and other documents. He questioned going forward do we need to do another one. He said the Needs Analysis will cover more. He said his interest as a senior is the Bocce Ball Court. He asked is if there is any way we could get a cover for the Bocce Ball Court so that you can play after it rains. **Terri Hilton** said she would investigate getting a cover for that area. **Abe Bruckman** introduced himself. He is the Grants Manager for the City of Rockville. He was an Urban Planner with grants experience and is interested in all things Rockville.

Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison asked if the Commission had a date for submitting the Annual Senior Citizens' Commission Report and suggested July might be a good time for that. She said the City Budget was approved last Monday and the property tax is static for FY 24 and FY 25-28. Funding for employee buy back and 1% COLA for retirees. **Abe Bruckman** will be giving a grant consulting presentation next Monday. There are two public hearings on June 5 and on June 12 an introduction to Chapter 8 Elections Code. Hometown Holidays is May 27 and 28, 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. There will be 15 performers and booths. May 29 is the Memorial Day parade. **Chair Elaine Koubek** asked about the status of the entrance to the center from Gude Drive. **Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison** said there is planning money but not construction money. **Chair Elaine Koubek** asked if there is a village in that neighborhood and **Trish Evans** said it is West End and there is a meeting there tonight and will bring it up.

Chair Elaine Koubek asked the Commission what they wanted to use the \$300.00 budget. All were in favor of creating a postcard marketing the center, **Chair Elaine Koubek** said she will talk with **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** and will send an email explaining what the postcard will look like and how it will be distributed.

The next item for discussion was the "Experience by Ingleside" poster. **Chair Elaine Koubek** would like to see how the contractors are vetted. **Ariane Burns** said she would be happy to get more information on this. **Stephen Smith, Commissioner** said that **Jerry Jones** is a good resource for plumbers, etc. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** confirmed that and always welcomes new resources. **Chair Elaine Koubek** recommended that the June 15, 2023, be in person and open to others at Brightview. It could also be hybrid. She said she will send ideas for topics to discuss. She said she will follow up with **Ariane Burns** to see if interested in joining the Commission. She requested that **Abe Bruckman** and **Ariane Burns** be invited to future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. **Next meeting:** June 15, 2023 –Hybrid – 10:00 AM