

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

June 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m. (hybrid and held at Brightview/West End)

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

Absent: Anne Herbster, Commissioner; Judith Jolie, Commissioner

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

Guest: Lori Newman; Dick Rosano; Abe Bruckman, City Manager Office; Christopher Meyers, Planning Department; Henry (resident-Brightview/West End)

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 May 18, 2023, minutes as presented. **Stephen Smith, Commissioner**, commented that there was an H at the heading of the minutes before CITY OF ROCKVILLE. **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** seconded it per making the change. All were in favor.

Co-Chair, Kevin Leary reported that he attended Hometown Holidays twice and the only comment he had was that the food ran out. He said there was no table set up for the Commission. He suggested there be a table for all Boards and Commissions next year.

Christopher Meyers presented next. He is from the Planning Team working on the Town Center Master Plan. He said the next step is to go out and set up roundtable discussions and would like to set one up with seniors at a time and location of our choice to discuss senior needs in Town Center. He said he would like to hold this roundtable before the end of the summer, preferably in the next two months. **Chair Elaine Koubek** suggested that the July meeting could be held at Brightview and could be an abbreviated meeting for half an hour, and then an hour for the roundtable.

Trish Evans reported next. She gave a shout out to **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** for coordinating so many programs and getting sponsor support for programs. She said Villages are moving forward. There has been some interest from Twinbrook. The first kickoff for New Mark Commons Village is next week. **Co-Chair, Kevin Leary** will be part of Twinbrook Village. Woottons Mill Village has an event in July.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope said she investigated the inquiry request for a cover for the Bocce Ball court. She said the funds will not be available before Fiscal Year 2024. She said the Father's Day picnic was successful and we have made great strides in diversity through Senior Recreation programs. Senior Program Assistance funds have helped with that. She spoke about bus replacement needs due to increased ridership for some of the trips and repair issues.

Abe Bruckman reported that he was successful in starting the process of installing solar panels in canopies and will be starting with the building on Taft Court. He will continue with the dialogue, All Things Solar.

Beryl Feinberg, Mayor and Council Liaison reported next. There won't be a meeting until July 17, 2023, and then they will be in recess until after Labor Day due to Sister City Taiwan trip, which the Mayor will be attending, and Maryland Municipal League in Ocean City from July 31, 2023 to August 7, 2023. Voting will be done by mail for the next election. There has been discussion about whether the voting age should be lowered to 16 or 17, should they have resided in the city for at least six months, should it be extended to non-citizens? Should the Mayor and Council have term limits? It is proposed to have three consecutive terms. Rank choice voting has been discussed. If it is approved would no longer be able to use county voting machines.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope verified that the Commission voted on car magnets as the choice for the budget spending.

Terri Hilton suggested for it to say “Follow Me to the Senior Center” with QR code. The vote was unanimous. She said the July meeting would be abbreviated, to thirty minutes for the meeting and then an hour Round Table organization meeting. The annual report will be done August 7, 2023. There will not be a meeting on August 17, 2023. The Senior Forum will be held in early to mid Fall . She will let the Commission know who the moderator will be. She will send **Co-Chair, Kevin Leary** a copy of the annual report prior to submitting. There will be a Senior Housing Expo on July 12, 2023, at the Senior Center. Understand Social Isolation Series will start on July 12, 2023, with Rika Granger and Maryland Durable Medical Equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. **Next meeting:** September 21, 2023 –Hybrid – 10:00 AM