

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

August 20, 2020, 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

Members Present: Anne Herbster, Chair; Norma Brailsford, Commissioner; Lynn Wagman, Commissioner; Alicia Seymour, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Mike Laux, Commissioner; Elaine Koubek, Commissioner; Councilmember Beryl Feinberg, Liaison

Absent: Jack Sprague, Commissioner

Staff: Alexis D'Angelo Swope; Andrea Rogers; Fran Jablonski

Chair, Anne Herbster opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with introductions and checking on how everyone is doing.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked the Commission to review the minutes and if anyone had changes. **Councilperson, Beryl Feinberg** requested to correct the spelling of the word liaison. All approved pending the change.

Chair, Anne Herbster presented the Boards and Commissions Task Force Report. She said it was presented to the Mayor and Council to review. The Task Force Charter is something that the Mayor and Council requested. The commissioners were very impressed with the thoroughness of the report and congratulated the Task Force on doing a tremendous job. The commissioners made some recommendations and comments such as a lack of diversity among all aspects of the report; more outreach is necessary to get the City to engage with communities to encourage more involvement; managing volunteers to provide ongoing communication and recognition to keep them engaged and interested; change Open Meeting Act to consider the challenges of older members to take the test and possibly to make some alternatives to taking the test and more assistance from the City in filling vacancies on the various Boards and Commissions.

Chair, Anne Herbster discussed the upcoming Senior Citizens Commission Virtual Forum that will be held on September 17, 2020 after the regular meeting. Different ideas were discussed as to how to push the information regarding the forum. It will be listed on the City's website calendar and in the September newsletter. They can call in and discuss different ideas and how the City is meeting their needs pre-covid to post-covid. Some questions from the survey that was mailed with the Fall Guide will be used to start the forum. Senior housing will be another topic discussed. Need to actively promote the forum. They can sign up through Rec 1 and then the link to join or the code to phone in will be provided prior to the time.

Staff Updates:

Andrea Rogers reported that she is keeping in touch with seniors and clients she is currently helping and ones she has helped in the past. She is receiving many calls and she is trying to come up with solutions to safely visit them in person. Some of the calls are lengthy because they are not hearing from many people. They want to come into the Center. She suggested that maybe when the weather cools there could be outside visits at their buildings or a walk, socially distant. She said she is seeing some declines. Some forgetfulness, depression, friends calling about their neighbors. Everyone is trying to help each other. There are still issues with Bethany House. She is working with management of the building and Code Enforcement to resolve some of it. All other housing opportunities are currently closed.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope reported on upcoming events. The Flu Shot Clinic on September 22 and All-Day Exercise on September 3 and 4. She is trying to get some of the senior buildings to agree to let nurses come in to give flu shots.

Martha McClelland is on the Vision Zero Task Force representing seniors. They are still holding meetings and haven't made too many decisions. They will meet again in September.

Liaison /groups:

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

Pete Sante Fund: Nothing reported.

United Seniors of Maryland (USM) Forum: Nothing reported

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM

Next meeting: September 17, 2020 **VIRTUAL – BUILDING CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**