

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

September 17, 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; Jack Sprague, Commissioner; Council Member, Beryl Feinberg, Liaison

Staff: Alexis D'Angelo Swope; Terri Hilton; Andrea Rogers; Martha McClelland; Fran Jablonski

Guest: Katie Ostrowski

Chair, Anne Herbster opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with introductions and checking on how everyone is doing and introduced the guest, Katie Ostrowski, who may be interested in joining the Commission.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked the Commission to review the minutes and if anyone had changes. All approved as presented.

Chair, Anne Herbster asked if anyone had any comments in regarding the Boards and Commissions Task Force Report. **Commissioner Mike Laux** said that he would like to get more specific about what a good fit means. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said a genuine interest and persistence or sustainability. As well as inclusive of age and ethnicity. She said she would make that change later today and will send it out to everyone and the Mayor and Council today.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope gave an update on the Senior Center Electronic Survey results. The survey is posted on our site and was mailed in our Fall Guide. The results from the electronic version is the greatest need is health, wellness, loneliness and fitness. Most of the responses were thank you. Isolation, food insecurity, mobility, and access to devices, problems with technology were some of the responses. 1500 surveys were sent out with the Fall Guides and some will be delivered to the senior housing buildings with the Senior Center food delivery. The flu shot clinic will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. We will pass out surveys for them to complete while they are waiting.

Next the Commission discussed the approach for the forum. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** said 12 people registered. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said she will start with introducing the Commission and the Staff and review how the forum will be done. Each person will be limited to a couple of minutes. If someone wants to talk that has joined the meeting by Zoom, they can select the hand button, and if they are joining by phone they can press *9. **Chair, Anne Herbster** has questions to kick off the conversation. She will take a few minutes to discuss why the Commission is holding this forum and that we value their feedback and will use this to bring back to the Mayor and Council. **Martha McClelland** suggested to add to food insecurity that shopping is available, 4-5 on each bus and the bus drivers do temperature checks at pickup and sanitize between runs. **Chair, Anne Herbster** said that she would end the forum with summary, thank the attendees for their assistance and help and let them know where the report and recording can be found.

Commissioner Elaine Koubek asked how the new Villages are doing with virtual book clubs, meetings, wellness check-ins, transportation, how to address challenges. **Trish Evans** said it has not been the same seeing people on Zoom as in person. No one is driving due to the fear factor, so all meetings and other events are being done on Zoom.

Councilmember, Beryl Feinberg reported on upcoming Mayor and Council agenda items; Social Justice/Racism Bias in Rockville Climate Action, Budget Reductions. At the October 5, 2020 Mayor and Council meeting the items to be discussed will be Rockville Town Center and Economic Liability, Underground Utility, Town Center Initiative. REDI is concerned about vacancies. The Council is working on an RFP for a consultant for RedGate. She said that the Social Justice item on Monday is in response to the Nationwide Black Lives Matter movement. At the last Mayor and Council meeting regarding police defunding it was voted to create a community policing commission. There has been no discussion on defunding. The intent is to reallocate resources instead of defunding.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope reported on an upcoming project with Channel 11; 60+ Spotlight. **Trish Evans** will interview staff. **Rika Grainger** will kick it off and it will air next Tuesday. **Chris Klopfer** will be interviewed for the fitness program the second week. **Andrea Rogers** will be interviewed in a couple of weeks. The Flu Shot Clinic on September 22 and the Election are upcoming events.

Chair, Anne Herbster thanked the staff for getting the seniors through the last eight months. She also informed everyone that **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** will be leaving us for three months soon.

Liaison /groups:

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

Pete Sante Fund: Nothing reported.

United Seniors of Maryland (USM) Forum: Nothing reported

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM

Next meeting: October 22, 2020 **VIRTUAL – BUILDING CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**