

CITY OF ROCKVILLE
ROCKVILLE COMMISSION ON AGING
ROCKVILLE SENIOR CENTER
1150 CARNATION DRIVE

July 17, 2025, 9:30 a.m. (Hybrid meeting)

Members Present: Elaine Koubek, Co-Chair; Stephen Smith, Co-Chair; Alan Kaplan, Commissioner; Ellen Wicker, Commissioner; Dory Wink, Commissioner; Vicki Gottlich, Commissioner; Dick Rosano, Commissioner; Krishna Kumar, Commissioner; Anne Herbster, Commissioner

Absent: Barry Jackson; Mayor and Council Liaison

Staff: Trish Evans; Fran Jablonski

Guests from the Senior Advisory Committee for the City of Gaithersburg: Charlyn Simpson; Staff Liaison; Britta Monaco, Vice Chair; and members, Mary Hoferek, and Angela Davis.

Elaine Koubek, Co-Chair started the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with welcome and check-in.

Elaine Koubek, Co-Chair asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes and asked if there were any comments or changes. There were none. All were in favor to approve the minutes.

Trish Evans gave the staff reports. She reported that there are a lot of activities going on at the Senior Center. One of the upcoming programs is Friends at First Sight on Thursday, August 7, from 1:00-2:30 PM. It is an opportunity for seniors to meet new people and sit one on one and get to know one another. There is an international program on Friday, August 15, 2025, from 1:00-3:00 PM. It is called Around the World in a Day. It is a program that recognizes different cultures with food, music and dance. There are also several Positive Aging Programs. The one today is Positive Aging Alone. She suggested looking at our website and subscribing to the newsletter to be kept informed of all the upcoming programs. There are a lot of activities going on in the villages. Hungerford Village is having their first meeting the first week of September and plans are underway for an end of the summer potluck. Fallsgrove Village is having a Potluck Cookout on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, from 6:00-7:30 PM at the gazebo in Fallsgrove Stream Valley Park. Rockville Town Center Village is having a Chili Cook Off on Saturday, July 29, 2025, from 3:00-4:00 PM. There will be a Village Family Picnic on Sunday, September 14, 2025, from 1:00-3:00 PM. The West Rockville Connects Village just received their 501 (3)(c) status. **Anne Herbster, Commissioner**, reported that the Villages Support Network just applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from the City of Rockville. This helps to fund and grow Villages. **Trish Evans** said this gives village leaders the opportunity to be creative and grow villages.

There was no Mayor and Council report because **Barry Jackson, Mayor and Council Liaison** is away on vacation.

The Commissioners voted to change the name of the Senior Citizen Commission to Rockville Commission on Aging, which will better align with similar organizations in the region, at a special meeting they held on May 1, 2025. The Commission expressed support for moving forward with this proposal. **Alexis D'Angelo Swope** prepared a draft resolution and sent it to the Commission to review and give comments before presenting it to the Mayor and Council. The Commission will be notified when it will go on the Mayor and Council meeting consent agenda. **Dick Rosano, Commissioner** volunteered to contact **Kathy Dantzler** requesting to put a Senior column in the Rockville Reports.

Elaine Koubek, Co-Chair explained the role of the Commission, that it is a gateway for senior needs to be relayed to the Mayor and Council. The mission of the Commission is located on the webpage. She explained we are in the process of changing the name of the Commission. **Britta Monaco** from the City of Gaithersburg said they have a variety of committees appointed by the Mayor and Council with a staff liaison. The Senior Advisory Committee is keeping an eye on Longevity Maryland. A committee member reports back once a month. The City of Gaithersburg has considered building a multigenerational center because they are running out of space. They have done research on the benefits of a

multigenerational center and did not find much information for or against. There are more studies to be done. There will be a lot more need for room soon. Thirty five percent of Gaithersburg's population is seniors. **Charlyn Simpson** said if anyone is interested you can get a link to the meeting on their website discussing this topic. Challenges in establishing village programs in Gaithersburg were also discussed. **Trish Evans** emphasized that successful initiative requires community involvement and volunteers. It is 100% dependent on the community's desire. The potential for a joint meeting between the Senior Advisory Committee of Gaithersburg and Rockville was proposed to enhance outreach and communication about available services, with an emphasis on cross-promotion of programs. The meeting also covered various communication strategies regarding senior services, with **Trish Evans** suggesting collaboration with city PR representatives to create effective presentations for community groups. **Vicki Gottlich, Commissioner** volunteered to create a presentation. It was suggested to put it on Rockville 11. **Anne Herbster, Commissioner** mentioned that Active Aging Week is from October 3-10, 2025, with plans for an event at the North Potomac Community Center that week. **Dory Wink, Commissioner** received the Proclamation for Older Americans Month at the Mayor and Council meeting on May 12, 2025. She requested that it be posted on the Commission's Bulletin Board.

Stephen Smith, Co-Chair presented on Communication Housing Inclusion/Isolation, Programming, Safety (CHIPS) next. For Communication **Anne Herbster, Commissioner** suggested inviting a member from the Commission on Aging to the October meeting. She said she would take care of it. **Stephen Smith, Co-Chair** reported the Housing Fair held at the Senior Center was well attended and informative. He said he has heard that there is one senior building that has mold issues and is concerned about the residents. **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** reported on Inclusion/Isolation. He suggested a three-day seminar for seniors regarding this topic. He wrote a 30-page paper and that would be the basis for the program. He said the passing of Judith Mairs was very important to this. **Stephen Smith, Co-Chair** reported that the Commission has proposed programs. He said that the staff is always one step ahead with the programs they offer. **Dick Rosano, Commissioner** held a program on memoir writing. **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** held one on Social Isolation. **Stephen Smith, Co-Chair** asked if anyone had any suggestions or new ideas to please share with staff. He said Safety is a major item and there will be some programs offered in the fall. In terms of safety, it could include scams, fraud, etc.

There is nothing to report on Gude Entrance.

The August meeting is canceled, and the September meeting will have a guest from the Maryland Commission on Aging.

Dick Rosano, Commissioner made a motion to adjourn, **Anne Herbster, Commissioner** seconded it. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM

The next meeting is September 18, 2025