

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

September 18, 2025, 9:30 a.m. (Hybrid meeting)

Members Present: 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; Barry Jackson; Mayor and Council Liaison

Absent: Elaine Koubeck, Co-Chair

Staff: Alexis D'Angelo Swope; Trish Evans; Fran Jablonski

Guests from State of Maryland Department of Aging: Liz Woodward, Assistant Secretary for Planning and her assistant, Darlene

Alexis D'Angelos Swope started the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with introductions and check-in.

Liz Woodward, Assistant Secretary for Planning, Maryland Department of Aging gave the presentation. The discussion was primarily focused on planning and funding for aging initiatives, with an emphasis on the importance of addressing issues such as isolation and loneliness among seniors. She outlined the Maryland Department of Aging's multi-sector plan aimed at improving services for older adults, highlighting the need for equitable aging services and addressing disparities in life expectancy. The expansion of the senior call check program in Montgomery County was discussed, emphasizing the importance of social connections for older adults. Additionally, she raised concerns about the navigation of various services available at different government levels and the need for better coordination among agencies to support seniors effectively. Updates on legislative matters included House Bill 502, which affects disability employment, and discussions on funding allocations. She detailed the existing formula and acknowledged the need for an evaluation to ensure it meets community needs. The complexities of regulatory oversight in long-term care facilities were also addressed, along with the challenges seniors face in accessing services through automated systems. The Maryland Access Point's collaboration with the Maryland Information Network was highlighted as a resource for seniors, with suggestions for improving public communication about available services.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope asked if there were any comments or changes to the July 17, 2025 minutes. **Stephen Smith, Co-Chair** mentioned two typos in the last large paragraph. **Stephen Smith, Co-Chair** made a motion to accept the minutes per the corrections, **Dick Rosano, Commissioner** seconded it. All were in favor

Trish Evans reported on the Villages next. She shared that the West Rockville Connects Village recently celebrated its launch as an independent 501c3 nonprofit. She noted the importance of the villages support network and the resources available to Montgomery County villages. She said there are a lot of great events coming up, which can be found in the Villages newsletter.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope reported that the library renovation is going well, and it should be completed by November. She said there is new tile in the Azalea, Board and Card Rooms. They are very bold, bright colors.

Barry Jackson, Mayor and Council Liaison acknowledged and congratulated Commission on the successful name change. He said there wasn't much to report. He discussed upcoming discussions regarding the use of the Farmstead space for seniors. He highlighted a successful trip to Germany, where he learned about the different electoral process for senior representatives in Pinneberg, which differs significantly from the U.S. system. Only 65 and older can vote for their senior representatives for their senior commission. They are very interested in the Village concept.

Updates on Communication, Housing, Inclusion, Programming, Safety, CHIPS were given next. There was nothing to

report on Communication, Housing or Programming. **Krishna Kumar, Commissioner** talked about an upcoming workshop about loneliness. It consists of three sessions (given on his own time and offsite). The Commission recognized the importance of developing initiatives based on input from seniors and ensuring that any commission-supported programs are well structured and thoughtfully planned.

Alexis D'Angelo Swope shared information on upcoming programs. Science Tuesday is held on the second Tuesday of the month. She is trying to get more in person programming under subjects like support and engagement. A group of our seniors meet on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays in the sunroom for coffee and discussions. The Gude Drive Entrance Plan is near 60% complete. The next step is the Advisory Board meeting.

Alan Kaplan, Commissioner made a motion to adjourn. **Dick Rosano, Commissioner** seconded it.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM

The next meeting is October 16, 2025