Minutes from March 3, 2021 meeting of the Economic Development Committee

Attending: Mary Lee Anderson, Jane King, Babs Waters, Annabelle Reitman, Sylvia Benatti, Emilia Turcios (City Staff coordinator)

The meeting began at 10:05 am via Zoom

The City's policy on virtual meetings was noted.

Senior Consumers: *Goal is to encourage businesses to offer discounts, services targeted to seniors.*
SSA has continued to distribute cards to older adults, no further activity related to new businesses is envisioned until after the pandemic. AHA will encourage members to patronize Silver Service businesses, but not push for discounts during the pandemic.

Senior Employment: *Goal is to help seniors find employment and to encourage businesses to hire*
Emilia Turcios advised that the second 50+ Cohort program concluded and several participants have job prospects. A "Meet the Employer" event is scheduled for 3/4.

AARP Livable Community
Jane King will continue to coordinate reports on this effort, as the Commission begins work on the next plan.

Housing Initiative *Goal is to make it easier for seniors considering moving to evaluate their options in Alexandria, and keep them here.*
City's Housing webpage includes information about apartments and condos in the City, including information on accessibility and public transportation.

Senior Ambassador Program
There are now 95 senior ambassadors. SSA continues to have weekly Zoom meetings with City officials and other non-profits, as well as send emails with news updates twice a week.

Seniors as Entrepreneurs

Annabelle Reitman and Sylvia Benatti are rolling out the "55+ Incubator" to help older adults who want to start their own business. Their website is under construction and the goal is to be up and running in the spring of 2021. This committee will incorporate their work as part of our new goals for the upcoming year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 7 at 10am via zoom.

Submitted by: Mary Lee Anderson