



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 7:00pm

The purpose of the Committee includes promotion and outreach, strategic planning, evaluation, special projects, and recruitment of committee members. Committee members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to Senior Services for the benefit of our residents and provide programmatic recommendations to our Board of Trustees.

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Senior Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, and called to order by Chairperson Valerie Lester at 7:10 PM.

Present Oak Park Committee: Valerie Lester, Drew Roskos, Sabryna-Joi King-Bell, Patricia Koko, Jean Peterman, Margaret Nafiseh and Trustee Liaison Eric Davis

Present River Forest Committee: Ruth Reko, Mike Carioscio, Carolyn Foster, Jim Flanagan, and Lydia Manning (via video)

Absent Oak Park Committee: Joy Aaronson

Absent River Forest Committee: Jean Buckley and Briselda Gjikondi

Also Present: Evan Michel, Township Manager of Oak Park Township, Pamela Mahn, Director of Senior Services for Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Maureen Delaney, Assistant to the Director of Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships; and Betsy Burton-Kelly, Senior Outreach Coordinator for River Forest Township

INTRODUCTIONS

Each attendee introduced themselves, identified the Township they represent, and stated what drew them to work for or volunteer with the Township.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 21, 2024, meeting. There were two corrections to the minutes: the legislative breakfast will be held in Bellwood (not Maywood), and Eric Davis gave a brief report on the Township's board meeting. The minutes were updated with these corrections. Jim Flanagan moved to approve the modified minutes, and

Ruth Reko seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Betsy Burton-Kelly, Senior Outreach Coordinator for River Forest Township, presented the report:

- Betsy is starting a pilot home sharing program in River Forest
- There will be a Coffee Monday at the River Forest Library on April 1 on Supportive Living for Older Adults
- River Forest Township is open for tax appeals
- There will be a Parent University training on social media April 10 at OPRF High School
- There are two openings on the Youth & Family Services committee
- River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan is retiring
 - Current Clerk John Bevcar will succeed Carla as Township Supervisor
 - Township seeking new Clerk

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Eric Davis presented the report:

- The Oak Park Township board has met twice since this committee's last meeting: on February 27 and March 12
- The Oak Park Township, in collaboration with the Village of Oak Park and the Community Mental Health Board, was recognized as a "Life Without Limits" award winner by UCP Seguin
- The Township board is considering whether the name of Senior Services should be changed to Aging and Disability Services
 - Pat Koko questioned if there would be an age range for those with disabilities
 - Ruth wondered if this committee's makeup would need to change
- The Township received a report from the Reparations committee
 - They recommended the Township hire a DEI consultant for analysis
 - The Township has done this
- The Township's Annual Meeting will be held April 9 at 6:30 pm in the Senior Services' dining room

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships, presented the report:

- Adult Protective Services' annual case review was completed
 - They received a score of 90%
 - They received multiple compliments on their great work
- Daily hot meals are back on four routes; more volunteers are needed

- The first-floor front office will become the new welcome center for Senior Services
- Pam, Mary Anne and Maureen are working on Age Options funding applications
- Senior Services will potentially host three interns this fall
- Pam received a call from a member of the Oak Park Energy Commission asking if the Township would consider electric vehicles for its fleet
 - This would require the fleet size to double since electric vehicles can't maintain the requisite nine continuous hours in the field without a recharging
 - Electric busses currently cost 2-3 times more than the current busses we use
 - Available grants from Commonwealth Edison are for \$10,000
- Effective July 1, there will be a new Township-wide newsletter financed by advertising

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Maureen reminded all committee members to complete the online Open Meetings Act (OMA) training and to send her their certificate when complete
- Pat announced the OPRF Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Health & Wellness Fair on Sunday, April 21 at the CRC, and they need vendors
- Jim reported that Celebrating Seniors will take a pause in 2024; they hope to return in 2025
- Val questioned what is happening with dementia trainings in the Oak Park and River Forest communities
 - Pam clarified that both Villages received designations as dementia friendly communities
 - The pandemic interfered with the communication and follow up of that designation, and Pam will circle back with more information

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Committee chair Valerie Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM

SERVING OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST

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