



# OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES

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## SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS

### CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Senior Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 and called to order by Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:01 PM.

**Present Oak Park Committee:** Pat Koko, Valerie Lester, Drew Roskos, Margaret Herman, Joy Aaronson, Michelle Thomas.

**Absent Oak Park Committee:** Ade Onayemi-Trustee Liaison.

**Present River Forest Committee:** Ruth Reko, Lydia Manning, Jim Flanagan, Margaret Rudnik.

**Absent River Forest Committee:** Ann O'Connell, Carla Sloan, Jean Buckley, Micah Hibler Karen Taubman-Trustee Liaison.

**Also Present:** Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Yazmin Morales, Information & Assistance Specialist; Betsy Burton-Kelley, Senior Outreach Coordinator for River Forest Township.

### INTRODUCTIONS

All the attendees had the opportunity to say their names and the Township they represent.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ruth Reko informed the committee about the Older Americans Act Reauthorization and Funding for Fall prevention education; both are being considered in upcoming sessions. Additional signers for support letters are needed for the Older Americans Act, for those interested, information would be forwarded to everyone in the group.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from March 17, 2021 meeting. Joy Aaronson moved to approve the minutes. Jim Flanagan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **RFT LIAISON'S REPORT**

Betsy Burton-Kelly presented the report:

- During the last Coffee Monday, Lydia and Lisa Peters-Beumer talked about Dementia Friendly and Age Friendly River Forest. Beginning in May, Coffee Monday gatherings will attempt to meet outdoors, weather permitting.
- Community Connect emails, and regular information continues to be sent.
- Circle of Friends is going well with 10 meetings completed and 2 meetings left to conclude the program. Betsy and Barb will be meeting to discuss plans before starting another group. Senior Services provided two GrandPads to participants of the program.
- Betsy reached out to Mather Lifeways and a doctor at the University of Chicago, to get to know their programs. Betsy would also like to reach out to different Hospitals to have their discharge planners refer people to Circle of Friends.
- Betsy attended the Sheridan Open House
- Betsy met with Esther Grachan who assists with Medicare applications and offered extra space available for meetings. She is looking into starting a gardening program with youth.

## **OPT LIAISON'S REPORT**

Ade Onayemi was unable to attend the meeting. Pamela Mahn presented information from the recent board meeting:

- April 27<sup>th</sup> is the official day for the final Cook County Board of Election results. Official announcements will be provided on this day.
- Pam attended both Oak Park and River Forest Annual Town Board Meetings and was able to provide annual reports.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- The OPRF Home Repair program continues to be on hold, awaiting signature from the Village of Oak Park on the Intergovernmental agreement.
- April 24<sup>th</sup> is the Maywood 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination clinic, information for volunteers was provided.
- Homebound residents are being screened to see if they can attend the AgeOptions Site Clinics for vaccines administered in the vehicle which are easier to navigate than some of the other area clinics. Follow up will continue to be provided.
- A new Care Coordinator and part-time receptionist have been hired and start at the end of the month. A remaining opening exists for a Food Service Worker.
- The rebranding project for Oak Park Township continues.
- A wish list of ideas is being put together for expanding the transportation services. Existing community surveys and partner input will be utilized along with additional community input to develop a framework and seek funding opportunities. Valerie volunteered to provide assistance gathering community feedback.

- In person face to face visits and Hospital visits with clients was discuss with IDOA. No exact date for implementation has been provided.
- A recent IDOA meeting provided information regarding the new web-based software system coming soon. June will be the start of testing and the system will tentatively go live in early 2022.
- IDOA is also working on implementation of six-month wellness home visit in addition to the annual assessment. The timeline for this regulation to begin is yet to be determined due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- Susan Frick has been invited to the June all-staff meeting to train staff as Dementia Friends.
- The Annual Report has been shared with the packet. It's important to emphasize that some programs like transportation had decreased numbers due to restricted capacity in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions while other programs like nutrition had dramatic increases in their service provision. The program managers did a great job pivoting service provision and utilized staff in other ways if there was a decrease in workload or capacity. Staff shifted from traditional responsibilities to conducting well-being phone calls and assisting with other programs – like transportation delivering meals for Beyond Hunger or helping with Home Delivered Meal distribution each Friday.
- Staff continues to rotate to ensure safe operation of all programs available at the Oak Park Township while limiting the capacity of staff on site at any time.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Celebrating Seniors**

Sheridan Donations and Deserts event was a success with profits of over \$600.00.

### **Great Neighbors**

Pam informed that no communication has been received.

### **Dementia Friendly Communities**

Both, River Forest, and Oak Park programs continue to be on hold until it is safer to re-open. The Dementia Friendly River Forest site continues to provide resources and information to help the community.

## **OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- If anyone is interested in becoming a SHIP counselors, Pam can provide further information; 2 different trainings are happening, in the months of May and July.
- Pam has attended the American Society on Aging Conference; a Community Caregiver Assessment will be shared and can be used by the committee to determine benefit for the OPRF community.
- If anyone is interested in becoming a pen-pal for students in Spain, please contact Betsy.

- Eagle Scout project has gotten about 50 responses from Seniors; a slideshow will be created as a Thank You to the scouts for participating in the project.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:00pm.

**ADJOURMENT**

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM.