



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7:00pm

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/546328413>

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Access Code: 546-328-413

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, April 19, 2023, and called to order by Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:13 PM.

Present Oak Park Committee: Pat Koko, Valerie Lester, Sabryna Joi King-Bell, Joy Aaronson, and Tim Thomas-Trustee Liaison

Absent Oak Park Committee: Drew Roskos

Present River Forest Committee: Ruth Reko, Briselda Gjikondi, Carolyn Foster, and Jean Buckley

Absent River Forest Committee: Jim Flanagan, Lydia Manning, and Margaret Rudnik

Also Present: Pamela Mahn, Director of Senior Services for Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Maureen Delaney, Assistant to the Director of Senior Services of Oak Park &

SERVING OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST

130 South Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60302 | Phone: (708) 383-8060 | Fax: (708) 383-5168

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River Forest Townships, and Betsy Burton-Kelly, Senior Outreach Coordinator for River Forest Township

INTRODUCTIONS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 15, 2023 meeting. Jean Buckley moved to approve the minutes. Carolyn Foster seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Oak Park representative Tim Thomas-Trustee Liaison presented the report.

- Tim explained that the Township held their annual meeting last week, and that the Township approved an OPRF student's referendum that will appear on the next ballot as: Shall the people of Oak Park have the initiative right to amend and propose ordinances by voter petition and enact those ordinances by voter referendum.
- The Township's Community Mental Health Board (CMHB) is celebrating its 50th anniversary and will soon be moving into the newly constructed Community Recreation Center once it opens in May.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

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

- She is working on Celebrating Seniors.
- Coffee Monday was with Roz Byrne who talked about end-of-life options.
- She will target buildings in River Forest where seniors live for visits.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Pam shared the document prepared for the Township's annual meeting which summarized services provided by Senior Services.
- Pam participated in the Memory Café quarterly meeting with Age Options today, and learned about a program she would like to bring to the Township.
- Pam highlighted a note from a caregiver thanking Senior Services for all the help and support during a difficult time.
- The Township's Care Coordination unit has the highest redetermination rate in the State of Illinois.
 - Upcoming State Legislation
 - Ruth Reko asked committee members to contact State Representative Camille Lilly and State Senator Don Harmon to request increased funding for family caregivers.
 - Pam explained how Care Coordination unit rate increases are the lowest in the state for any vendors/partners the State works with. The Coordinated Care Alliance is asking that IDOA use the proposed \$15 million dollar increase in the budget for increased reimbursement rates to the Care Coordination Units. Pam will email a one pager to send legislators.
- Pat Koko expressed her admiration for the slogan, "When you don't know where to start, start with us," and asked if we could have buttons made with that printed on them.
- Pam reported a significant increase in volunteer hours over the last year and that most of the volunteer hours in the Township are for Senior Services programs and expressed her gratitude for the help.
- Drew Roskos attended the American Society on Aging conference and will do a brief presentation at the next meeting.

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- Pam explained how ICE packets work and encouraged committee members to share packets with community members.
- Mary Anne Ojeda was interviewed by a reporter on the Key Box program.
- Staff changes In Senior Services
 - Mary Anne Ojeda promoted to Senior Manager Social Services
 - Bonnie Noe promoted to Care Coordination Supervisor
 - Yazmin Morales and Caroline Wilz will be Team Leads for the Aging & Disability Resource Center
 - Michael Joffe will be CCU Training Team Lead & Chore Program Manager
 - Christopher Fox is no longer with the Township

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors – reported by Pat Koko

- The celebration will be May 11th- 18th
- Almost fifty events are scheduled
- There are approximately 32 honored seniors
- There will be a luncheon on the May 11 for all honorees from 2022 and 2023

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Val has not yet submitted letters to the editor because of concerns about conflicting with Celebrating Seniors.
 - The committee will submit a letter once a month
 - Pam suggested starting with Home Meds/Medication Safety in May
- Upcoming Events
 - River Forest Memorial Day parade 5/29/23
 - Day In Our Village 06/04/23
- Professor Bach from Dominican University will be presenting Only You Can Write Your Own Story during Celebrating Seniors Week

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- Ruth and Sabryna have been working hard on committee member nominations for the election of officers at the May meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM.

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