



# OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

## SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS Wednesday, April 17, 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, April 17, 2024, and called to order by Chairperson Valerie Lester at 7:12 PM.

**Present Oak Park Committee:** Valerie Lester, Joy Aaronson, Patricia Koko, Jean Peterman, and Trustee Liaison Eric Davis

**Present River Forest Committee:** Ruth Reko, Jean Buckley, Mike Carioscio, Carolyn Foster, and Jim Flanagan (via video)

**Absent Oak Park Committee:** Drew Roskos and Margaret Nafiseh

**Absent River Forest Committee:** Briselda Gjikondi and Lydia Manning

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

### INTRODUCTIONS

Each attendee introduced themselves, identified the Township they represent, and stated what they like about spring.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 20, 2024, meeting. Mike Carioscio moved to approve the minutes. Pat Koko seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ruth Reko informed the committee that Arbor West Neighbors will be sponsoring a half-day

presentation on avoiding scams at the main library on May 14 beginning at 9:30 am

## **RFT LIAISON'S REPORT**

Val Lester reported for Betsy Kelly

- Betsy sent a detailed email with her report to all the committee members
- Val wanted to highlight committee member Drew Roskos' presentation on April 23 on how vacant buildings can be used to help solve the housing crisis

## **OPT LIAISON'S REPORT**

- OPT Board has met twice since this committee's March meeting
- At the March 26 meeting, the Board approved a contract for masonry repairs to both the 130 and 105 buildings, and approved the Youth & Family Services grant expenditures
- On April 9 the Board hosted their annual meeting followed by a regular Board meeting
  - At the annual meeting, three referenda were proposed and one passed
  - The Board highlighted the wide array of services the Township provides despite receiving the second lowest allocation of taxes in the Village of Oak Park
- At the regular Board meeting following the annual meeting on April 9
  - The Board discussed updating the strategic plan and reviewed work of the Decennial committee
  - The Board approved a preliminary budget for fiscal year 2025

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- Pam reviewed highlights from the Township's Impact report presented at the annual meeting
  - The Township reported over 2700 volunteer hours last year
    - Pam is grateful for all the volunteers and thanked the committee members for their service
  - APS cases increased 41% in the past year
    - Pam attributed this more to increased awareness and reporting than increased incidents
    - Ruth suggested this would be a good topic for a Coffee Monday
    - Val questioned whether the Township partners with Sarah's Inn
- Pam reminded everyone of Age Option's area plan and encouraged them to attend the public hearings
- Senior Services and the Township will be participating in the Health Fair on Sunday, April 21 at the Community Recreation Center
- Senior Services hired a full-time driver, Vernon Bea Jr., to assist with both meal delivery and transportation
- Interviews continue for a Benefits Administrator and a Billing Specialist

- The current issue of News & Views will be the last in the current format
  - Beginning in July, the newsletter will be larger, printed in color, encompass information across all Township departments, and paid for by advertising
- The new first floor Welcome Center should be open by the end of May
- Sabryna Joi King-Bell resigned from the Senior committee
  - There are two applicants to fill her position
  - Ruth Reko has a nominee
  - Joy encouraged the committee to consider applicants outside of their circle

## **OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- There was discussion about a proclamation for Older American's month
- Recognition of Former Directors
  - Jean Peterman motioned to ask the Oak Park Township Board to recognize the former Directors of Senior Services, Nancy Teclaw and Marie Mace, and Val Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Open Meetings Act (OMA) training
  - Annual training required by State of Illinois and Township
  - Please send certificates of completion to Maureen
- Committee member biography and photo
  - Applications will be used to create a bio for each committee member
  - Please submit a headshot or photo if you have one
- Letter to the Editor
  - Jean Buckley volunteered to write a letter on transportation to the Farmer's Market

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee chair Valerie Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM

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## **SERVING OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST**

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