



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES

130 SOUTH OAK PARK AVENUE, OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60302

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, August 19, 2020 and called to order by Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:05 PM.

Present Oak Park Committee: Michelle Thomas; Valerie Lester; Joy Aaronson

Absent Oak Park Committee: Lydia Manning; Pat Koko; Ade Onayemi, Trustee Liaison

Present River Forest Committee: Jean Buckley; Ruth Reko; Betsy Burton-Kelly, River Forest Township Senior Outreach Coordinator

Absent River Forest: Ann O'Connell; Jim Flanagan; Sally Gibbs; Micah Hibler; Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Supervisor; Karen Taubman, Trustee Liaison

Also Present: Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Township

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The February, May and June minutes were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Ade Onayemi was not in attendance.

Valerie Lester reported that she was on the virtual Oak Park Township Board meeting last night and there was a:

- presentation for an ongoing Remote Work policy. Decision was made to approve the policy and to revisit in six months to determine approval moving forward.
- discussion regarding preparation for the upcoming election and the Township as a polling place.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

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

- River Forest Township had the annual town board meeting last night.
- Six older adults attended the recent virtual Coffee Monday event hosted by the Township and River Forest Public Library.
- Celebrating Seniors All Year Long will begin virtual meetings at the end of October.

Supervisor

Clarmarie I. Keenan

Clerk

Gregory P. White

Assessor

Ali ElSaffar

Trustees

Eric E. Davis

Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley

Ade Onayemi

Margaret Trybus

Telephone

708-383-8060

Facsimile

708-383-5168

E-mail

seniors@

oakparktownship.org

Website

www.

oakparktownship.org

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Mahn presented the following and fielded questions on her oral report.

- Presentation made at the annual River Forest Town meeting last night. Provided information to the trustees and members of the public including the annual report that has also been provided to this committee, a review of Township efforts changing during COVID-19 and how we continue to serve the community.
- The Township is following guidance from the CDC and the IDPH along with directives from the Illinois department on aging for developing protocols for reopening our sites. The Senior Services Center has not been opened to the public yet.
- Senior Services staff continue to work remotely, in the field, and on site. Staff have the necessary PPE for in office and in the field interactions. Participants are offered masks if needed when interacting with staff and necessary building modifications have been made including modifications to the ventilation system and glass panels at desks.
- Since mid-March to the first week in August, more than 65,000 meals have been distributed.
- Farmers Market coupon booklet distribution has gone well and there are still some booklets remaining to be distributed throughout August until they are gone.
- The Top Box meal delivery program continues and referrals are also being made for deliveries from Beyond Hunger depending on the unique client situation.
- The Dine-Out program coupon distribution continues by arrangement with the Nutrition Program Manager, Madeline Pietryla.
- Staff continue to conduct well-being calls to participants to check on their needs.
- Transportation continues to provide service for those seniors with dialysis and medical appointments. Our drivers continue to assist our nutrition program with delivery homebound participants and to Beyond Hunger with deliveries.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee

None.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee members expressed interest in raising awareness about Silver Search and how it works in our communities.

Virtual Memory Café was discussed and the declining number of participants attending the monthly meeting time and possible factors involved including "Zoom fatigue". Staff will be reaching out to participants to gauge interest in participation, what type of programming they would like to see moving forward, and development of a planned schedule.

In order to make a final push for Census 2020 completion, staff who are completing well-being calls will participants if they have questions, or need assistance completing the Census.

Committee members discussed the openings on the Oak Park committee left by Barbara Bodner and Dr. Ken Blair and potential residents who may be interested in completing an application for appointment. Members will reach out to potential candidates and report back.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 16, at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.