



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

Supervisor

Clarmarie I. Keenan

Clerk

Gregory P. White

Assessor

Ali EISaffar

Trustees

Eric E. Davis

Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley

Ade Onayemi

Margaret Trybus

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Senior Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 and called to order by Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:05 PM.

Present Oak Park: Pat Koko, Valerie Lester, Drew Roskos

Absent Oak Park: Michelle Thomas, Joy Aaronson, Ade Onayemi - Trustee Liaison.

Present River Forest: Ruth Reko, Lydia Manning, Jean Buckley, Ann O'Connell, Jim Flanagan, Betsy Burton-Kelly – Senior Outreach Coordinator.

Absent River Forest: Margi Rudnik, Micah Hibler.

Also Present: Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Township; Yazmin Morales, Information & Assistance Specialist.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Valarie Lester informed the group that Arbor West Neighbors will be holding a Township Trustee Forum, on Thursday, February 25th at 7:00pm. The forum will focus on issues for older adults in the community.

Ruth Reko informed the group that on February 18th at 7:00pm. Arbor West Neighbors will be hosting a Village of River Forest candidate forum including two Presidential candidates and four Trustee candidates for the Village Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting. Jean Buckley moved to approve the minutes. Ann O'Connell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Betsy Burton-Kelly reported:

- The Circle of Friends Group started on February 11th, eight participants attended, and overall it went well. The internet at Mills Park Tower had static, Wi-Fi connection needed to improve, and cameras need to be installed. The computers in the community room may become available which will help for the next meeting.
- Lydia and Betsy spoke at the River Forest Township Coffee Monday, Lydia spoke about the Dementia Friendly website and Betsy talked about the RF Township Senior services.
- Betsy will be attending the Thrive Suicide Prevention training.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Pamela Mahn did not receive a report from Trustee Onayemi, but will provide information with the Director's report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Mahn provided the following updates along with the Director's report which was sent via email.

- The Oak Park Town Board will be hearing department budgets at the next meeting. Senior Services Budget reflects anticipated increases in expenditure which are offset by increased revenue and minimizing the amount of additional Township funds needed.
- A summary of the Rebranding Project was shared via email which highlights the surveys sent, responses received, and positive feedback provided.
- A COVID-19 Vaccination hotline has been developed older adults to register to receive a vaccine if they don't have access to the internet. Oak Park and River Forest operate under separate health departments, so staff have to navigate providing assistance through various platforms.
- Volunteers were requested for transportation to the vaccination sites.
- Planning for vaccinations for homebound residents continues.
- The Village of Oak Park is currently only vaccinating caregivers over the age of 65. Caregivers are considered a priority group, and we're seeking alternative vaccination opportunities for them.
- There is currently a receptionist position posted. We anticipate the interview and selection process to be completed in March.
- Staff evaluations are underway.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Eagle Scouts

Drew Roskos reported he, Pamela Mahn and Valerie Lester met with the Troop 20 in Oak Park. During the meeting, the Eagle Scout Leader Candidate explained the project, which consists of scouts and older adults communicating through letters. Approximately, 350 letters will be created to include with weekly meal distribution. Some suggestions were included for the project to continue on after the project is over.

Celebrating Seniors

Jim Flanagan reported that they are still waiting to confirm if Celebrating Seniors will be delayed or postponed. Discussions continue about Donut Day 2021 and whether Celebrating Seniors will continue. The Sheridan of River Forest will be hosting an event to benefit Celebrating Seniors called “Deserts and Donations”, more information regarding the event will be provided soon.

Dementia Friendly Communities

Lydia Manning reported that during their last meeting in January, it was decided that the project will be put on hold until it is safer to re-open. The internet site continues to provide resources and information to help the community, if contacted, training can be provided. Pamela Mahn reports that the meetings for DFOP continues to be on hold for now, if businesses are interested, training can be provided as well.

Great Neighbors

No update.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Potential Senior Committee applicant, Ralph Lee, has a conflict with timing of the committee meeting, two Oak Park positions remain open.
- Referral slots are still available for the Uniper TV service call (708) 383-8060 for more information.
- The OPRF Home Repair project has been approved by Oak Park and River Forest Townships and the Village of River Forest. In March it will go to the Village of Oak Park Board. The Village of Oak Park has opened the Community Development Block Grant application process and the Village sent the application packet to Northwest Housing Partnership for them to apply for funds.
- Valerie informed about the AARP grant request for quick action programing.
- Drew informed about the AARP packets for project implementation, applications are due April 14th.
- Drew inquired about the Foster Grandparents program; program clarification was provided.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.