



# OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

## SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS Wednesday, February 21, 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, February 21, 2024, and called to order by Chairperson Valerie Lester at 7:13 PM.

**Present Oak Park Committee:** Valerie Lester, Drew Roskos, Sabryna-Joi King-Bell, Patricia Koko, Jean Peterman, Margaret Nafiseh and Trustee Liaison Eric Davis

**Present River Forest Committee:** Ruth Reko, Mike Carioscio, and Carolyn Foster

**Absent Oak Park Committee:** Joy Aaronson

**Absent River Forest Committee:** Jean Buckley, Briselda Gjikondi, Lydia Manning, and Jim Flanagan

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

### INTRODUCTIONS

Each attendee introduced themselves, identified the Township they represent, and stated what intergenerational means to them.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 17, 2024, meeting. Ruth Reko moved to approve the minutes. Mike Carioscio seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

## **OPT LIAISON'S REPORT**

Trustee Eric Davis gave a brief report on the Township Board meeting and welcomed new Township Manager, Evan Michel.

## **RFT LIAISON'S REPORT**

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

- The final draft of the efficiency report required by the decennial committee is complete and will be presented to the Board in March
- A new Employee Handbook for RFT employees was approved in February
- Youth and Family Services continues to review grant applications
- The Home Repair project won an award
- The Mental Health Supervisor participated in a D90 parent meeting for IEPs
- Concordia has been conducting focus groups for seniors
- Betsy is updating listing of programs/services for seniors provided by local colleges

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- The new Township manager, Evan Michel, started earlier this month
- Work is underway on the FY25 budget
- A big upcoming project will be Age Options RFP for IIIB, IIID, and IIIE services
- A photo shoot with representatives from each of the partners in the Home Repair program will take place once the ICMA award is received, and a subsequent press release will be issued
- Oak Park Township is renewing IGAs with both the River Forest Township, Village of River Forest to continue the OPRF Home Repair and Capable projects with Northwest Housing Partnership
- A senior nutrition program volunteer made and donated wooded forms so more sleeping mats can be produced from plastic bags for unhoused people
- Pam is updating printed materials on safety, transportation, and benefits
- There is a potential Kott scholar/intern for the fall
- Transportation offices have been relocated to former first floor conference room
- A Welcome Center/reception area will be created in the old Transportation office area
- Beginning with the July/August issue the newsletter will be significantly expanded and produced by a vendor who secures advertising partnership to cover the cost of printing

## **OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Celebrating Seniors
  - No decision as to whether it will continue
- Review of Intergenerational Funding meeting
  - There was one project proposal evaluated for a mural

- The committee supported the concept but felt the efforts for intergenerational programming were not well outlined in the application
- Feedback will be reported back to the applicants and they will be encouraged to reapply next year
- Open Meetings Act (OMA) training
  - All committee members are required to complete online OMA training and submit certificate showing they completed training to Maureen
  - Maureen will resend link to online OMA training
  - There is no other option for training available
- Letters to Editor
  - Val will table letter regarding Capable Project
  - Suggestions for new letter include Oak Park Health Department visits to Township offices and blood drives
- Legislative Breakfast reminder
  - Invite your legislator to join you at breakfast. Flyers sent to members via email. Closest site is Bellwood, IL on 4/1.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee chair Valerie Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:07 PM

**SERVING OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST**

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