



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

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

Present Oak Park Committee: Valerie Lester, Joy Aaronson, 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, Jim Flanagan, Briselda Gjikondi, and Lydia Manning

Absent River Forest Committee: Jean Buckley and Carolyn Foster

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 something they hoped to accomplish in the new year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 18, 2023, meeting. Mike Carioscio moved to approve the minutes. Ruth Reko seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

TRUSTEE LIASON REPORT

Trustee Eric Davis presented the report:

- There is a new Township Manager, Evan Michel, who will begin work in February
- Eric thanked Pam Mahn and Megan Traficano for the outstanding work they have done acting as Interim Township Managers

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

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

- Betsy distributed a mailing going out this week to all River Forest residents
- An updated mental health resource guide is now available
- The levy will increase by 4%
- There will be a 14% decrease in general assistance funds due to lack of use by RF residents
- The River Forest Township website update is complete

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Pam completed a valuable "Leading on Purpose" class at ICMA in December
- A sponsorship brochure was presented to the Township Board last month; they will vote on it next month
- Pam thanked Jim Flanagan and Bentron Financial for a donation to cover the purchase of an electronic monitor for the Senior Services' building lobby
- Age Options funding applications for FY2024 have been submitted and approved
- Seeking ways to increase local participation in The Capable Project
- Open driver position in Senior Services
- Signed new IGA with Park District of Oak Park - Senior Services Transportation support to the Park District will decrease to backup coverage now that they have purchased their own new busses
- There was discussion about expanding Senior programming onsite, partnering with the Village of Oak Park Health Department, Walk and Talk events at the Community Recreation Center, and more

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Letter to the Editor
 - Val asked for feedback on her letter to the editor of The Wednesday Journal
 - Ruth suggested using actual examples
 - Val will accept email suggestions

- Pat Koko explained the CAST water safety program available in Forest Park
- Val explained a need for a quorum of eight Senior Services Committee members at the Youth and Family Services Committee meeting on February 7th at 6 pm to discuss and vote on intergenerational funding applications
 - Ruth, Lydia, and Jim plan to attend
 - Remaining Committee members will check their schedules and follow up
- Val expressed a need for volunteers for Friday morning meal delivery
- Jim discussed plans for a conference call tomorrow to evaluate the future viability of Celebrating Seniors
- Pam reminded everyone that the Superintendent of OPRF High School will be at in the Senior Services meeting room on Monday, January 22nd at 6:30 pm to provide an overview of current status at the school and solicit feedback from community members

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024

ADJOURMENT

Committee chair Valerie Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:11 PM

SERVING OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST

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