



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS

Wednesday, June 21 at 7:00pm

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

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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, June 21, 2023, and called to order by former Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:03 PM.

Present Oak Park Committee: Valerie Lester, Joy Aaronson, Drew Roskos, and Tim Thomas-Trustee Liaison

Absent Oak Park Committee: Sabryna Joi King-Bell and Pat Koko

Present River Forest Committee: Ruth Reko, Mike Carioscio, Carolyn Foster, Jim Flanagan, Briselda Gjikondi, and Lydia Manning

Absent River Forest Committee: Jean Buckley

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 17 meeting. Carolyn Foster moved to approve the minutes. Jim Flanagan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Tim Thomas, Township Liaison, presented the report.

- This is Tim's last meeting
 - He has been reassigned to the CMHB committee
 - The new Township Liaison to the committee will be Eric Davis
 - Tim thanked everyone for their work
 - Ruth thanked Tim for his service
- George Bailey and Sandra Sokol will work on the Township's decennial committee

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

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

- The Assessor has been very busy with reassessments
- Live4Lali truck is active in Oak Park, and hoping to soon be in River Forest
- Thrive will be getting more money to deliver better services and eliminate waiting lists
- Barb Bodner moved to DC; she will be missed
- Julie Bach, a Social Work professor at Dominican, will be offering a class on reminiscing in July
- Oak Park Township Senior Services personnel have been visiting on Wednesdays to help seniors apply for benefits
- Memorial Day parade was successful
- A Pride flag was raised at Village Hall
- There was a well-attended Juneteenth celebration at the library
- The Rotary food truck rally will be on August 26
- The River Forest Township is redoing their website

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships presented the following report in addition to her written Director's Report:

- The Township won a 2023 Local Government Excellence Award for the Home Repair program from the International City County Managers' Association
- The State will be increasing billing rates approximately 28%
- Senior Services has been very busy with funding applications
 - Received grants from Age Options for revitalizing congregate dining (\$10k), home meal delivery (\$15k), and a stipend for home preservation program (\$8k)
 - Adult Protective Services came up with a supplemental technology payment of \$2500 to use for tablets for report taking
 - ARPA is adding to our revenue for case supervision and training dollars with approximately \$47k over 18-24 month period
- Pam will be attending the Township Officials of Cook County meeting
- Mary Anne will be doing walk and talks on the new track at the Community Recreation Center

- Laura Valcour will transition to Program & Outreach and a nutrition site supervisor will be hired
- Pam is exploring an option with Youth & Family Services to have the Senior committee participate in funding decisions for multigenerational projects
- Aging in Place changed their name to Aging in Community
 - Still in discussion with Dr. Becca Levy
 - Budget for project will be between \$60-\$100k
- Pam will send out sign-up sheets for upcoming volunteer opportunities

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

- The Celebrating Seniors committee is awaiting Pat Koko's return, and will do a written report then

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tim Thomas shared news about a new affordable housing grant opportunity in Oak Park
- Lydia Manning and Jim Flanagan presented their survey results at a River Forest Village Board meeting
 - Overall River Forest is already an age friendly community
 - They made a number of recommendations to the Village
 - Drew Roskos shared information about a bench project program in Boston

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 8:07 PM.

SERVING OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST

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