



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES

130 SOUTH OAK PARK AVENUE, OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60302

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

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, March 17, 2021 and called to order by Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:01 PM.

Present: Oak Park Committee: Pat Koko, Valerie Lester, Drew Roskos, Michelle Thomas, Margaret Herman, Joy Aaronson.

Absent: Oak Park: Ade Onayemi-Trustee Liaison.

Present: River Forest Committee: Ruth Reko, Lydia Manning, Jean Buckley, Jim Flanagan, Micah Hibler, Margi Rudnik.

Absent: River Forest: Ann O'Connell, Carla Sloan, Karen Taubman-Trustee Liaison.

Also Present: Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Yazmin Morales, Information & Assistance Specialist; Betsy Burton-Kelley, Senior Outreach Coordinator for River Forest Township.

INTRODUCTIONS

All the attendees had the opportunity to say their names and the Township they represent. Margaret Herman provided a brief intro as the newest member.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ruth Reko informed the committee that the State of Illinois, is considering reinstating parole in the legislation. The state of Illinois had not had parole as a tool for prisoners who have served their term, and this has impacted people 60+ years old. Oak Park retired attorney Marc Blesoff has been working on this effort and information has been published in the March 16th, 2021 Chicago Tribune. Ruth would be happy to provide information to the committee for those interested.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from February 17, 2021 meeting. The heading format will be corrected. Pat Koko and Ruth Reko's name will be changed as noted. Pat Koko moved to approve the minutes. Lydia Manning seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Betsy Burton-Kelly presented the report:

- Let Betsy know if anyone in River Forest is interested in working on a community garden plot, looking for seniors interested, if a spot is desired please reach out by the end of March.
- Community Connect emails, regular information continues to be sent.
- News and Views Newsletter information was provided for spring issue.
- Through the RF Assessors office homeowners' names were received. A letter would be sent to inform about the different services provided.
- Circle of Friends is going well, a participant expressed the difficulty to make virtual friends, computers and phones are being used. Pam offered a Grandpad for participants use.
- Aging in Place people were defined, as a committee through the RF Village, that works to serve some of the Senior in the community.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Pamela Mahn presented the report based upon her attendance at the board meeting,

- There have been two board meetings since the last committee meeting
- Discussions regarding the township budget have begun; Senior Services budget was presented
- Some discussions regarding the significant increase in expenses for meals. Pam noted that AgeOptions has awarded additional funds to support the program
- The Township will be implementing a Vision Care package for its employees beginning with the July 1, 2021 plan year
- Cost of living increases have been approved for staff effective with the new fiscal year beginning April 1st and potential for merit increases in the fall.
- Once the election is over, there will be changes in members of the Township Board and possibly with the Senior Services Committee.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Printed information was included in the email packet for the upcoming Celebrating Seniors event - Donation and Deserts on March 25th from 8:30am-6:00pm.
- North Riverside vaccination clinic update: over 450 participants were vaccinated. Last weekend there was a second round, and 507 participants were vaccinated. Another event will be happening on March 27th in Maywood. Caregivers have been targeted, as the Village of Oak Park is not vaccinating caregivers under age 65 while Cook County Health Department has made that special accommodation.
- The Village of Oak Park Aging in Place Commission has presented their work plan for the new year which included OPRF Home Repair Program through the Northwest Housing Partnership.

- Pam forwarded an article to the Villages of Oak Park and River Forest regarding a Chicago initiative to vaccinate home bound residents using the Chicago Fire Department. Seeking a potential option for local residents.
- Information on the Foster Grandparent Program and criteria for volunteers.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors

It has been decided to skip Doughnut Day. Donation and Desserts event will be happening, information was previously provided. Nothing has been scheduled for further months.

Great Neighbors

No communication has been established in regards this initiative. Pam and Valerie provided suggestions for a different approach. Margi provided some feedback regarding volunteer follow ups.

Dementia Friendly Communities

Dementia Friendly efforts in Oak Park and River Forest have been put on hold until it is safer to re-open. The Dementia Friendly River Forest internet site continues to provide resources and information to help the community.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Eagle Scout project is midway in the process, the messages have been distributed, and the plan has been implemented.
- Township asked if a bio and a picture can be provided from Margaret as she is new to the committee. Pam asked if everyone in the committee can provide this information to be shared.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURMENT

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 8:04 PM.