



# OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

## SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7:00pm**

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

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/546328413>

You can also dial using your phone.

United States +1(646)749-3122

Access Code: 546-328-413

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, March 15, 2023, and called to order by Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:07 PM.

**Present Oak Park Committee:** Pat Koko, Valerie Lester, Sabryna Joi King-Bell, Joy Aaronson, Drew Roskos, Tim Thomas-Trustee Liaison.

**Absent Oak Park Committee:**

**Present River Forest Committee:** Ruth Reko, Briselda Gjikondi, Carolyn Foster, Jean Buckley, Lydia Manning, Margaret Rudnik.

**Absent River Forest Committee:** Jim Flanagan

**Also Present:** Pamela Mahn, Director of Senior Services for Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Yazmin Morales, Information & Resource and Housing Specialist for Senior

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130 South Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60302 | Phone: (708) 383-8060 | Fax: (708) 383-5168

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## SENIOR SERVICES

Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships, Maureen Delaney, Assistant to the Director of Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 15, 2023 meeting. Sabryna Joi King-Bell moved to approve the minutes. Jean Buckley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ruth shared information regarding the AgeOptions Legislative Breakfast, where Cook County, state, and local officials had representation and older adults' issues were discussed. There was much discussion about the Care Giver Act and Ruth complimented Pam and her staff for their presentation on a case spotlighting Care Coordination & Caregiver Support Programs.

### **OPT LIAISON'S REPORT**

Oak Park representative Tim Thomas-Trustee Liaison presented the report.

- Tim acknowledged the work provided by the Township, regarding housing and how affordable housing matters. Tim emphasized that Housing instability does not only affect seniors.
- General Assistance (GA) currently aids single clients but would like to implement an emergency General Assistance program that would assist clients that are not single with a onetime assistance of \$1,200. Eligible residents would have the opportunity to use this grant for many different issues such as medication, furniture, dentures, car repairs, etc... Grants would be available for residents of River Forest and Oak Park Townships.

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### RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Betsy Burton-Kelly, Senior Outreach Coordinator for River Forest Township was absent, a written report will be provided.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- The nutrition department was short-staffed and staff across the Township helped to provide coverage, not a single delivery or event was canceled.
- In the Care Coordination unit, one staff member resigned, and one staff member was out due to need for urgent leave.
- Staff continues to complete trainings provided with funds through the Community Mental Health Board infrastructure grant.
- The Emergency Senior Fund, through the State of Illinois was extended for 2 more years. Additional funding will be provided to assist with emergency purchases for seniors in the community. Some purchases this year have included air conditioner units, prescriptions, groceries, and transportation.
- Wednesday Journal has recently published an article on the Money Management Program, Pam thanked Val for her assistance.
- Programing for Celebrating Seniors week was shared, many activities will be offered;
  - The Illinois Secretary of State Super Senior event will be happening during Celebrating Seniors Week in May, more information will be provided. Senior Services is planning to host at least six events throughout the week. Check [www.celebratingseniors.net](http://www.celebratingseniors.net) for more information.
- Senior Services is hosting a blood drive has been scheduled from 2-6pm on Thursday, March 16th.

### SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

#### Celebrating Seniors

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The celebration will be May 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. There will be many activities planned for that week. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please let Lydia or Jim know. The event nominations application is ready, and it is located at [www.celebratingseniors.net](http://www.celebratingseniors.net). So far there are only five nominations. Please spread the word about submitting nominations for residents of Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park age 60 and older.

### **Older Adult Library Focus**

A meeting was held on March 14<sup>th</sup> with the executive director at Oak Park Public Library as the print version of the newspaper is no longer available for patrons, and this needs to be reinstated.

### **OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Val will be submitting letters to the editor of The Wednesday Journal regarding Key Box Program and ICE Packet. Information will be shared.
- Women Leaders in Philanthropy is currently working on 2/ \$10,000 grant for:
  - Seniors' mental health
  - Gun violence reduction
  - Early childhood educationAnd 2 /\$5,000 grants for:
  - New organizations/ New or existing Program
  - Food insecurity
    - *Applications are due next month and are open for Oak Park and surrounding areas.*
- Arbor West Neighbors Asset Mapping event:
  - 2018 data gathered was presented.
  - Ten tables were represented, Concordia University and Triton attended.
  - Val suggested that a directory be created.
- Maureen Delaney was introduced as the new Assistant to the Director.
  - Attended Aging in Place Coalition meeting.
  - Shared her previous experience as the Business Manager at the Elmwood Park Public Library.

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- Nominating committee for Senior Committee members election in May
  - Sabryna and Ruth volunteered to work together during the next month and will be reaching out to committee members for their nominations and information.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 7:00pm.

### **ADJOURMENT**

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM.

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