



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES

130 SOUTH OAK PARK AVENUE, OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60302

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, May 20th, 2020 and called to order by Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:05 PM.

Present Oak Park Committee: Lydia Manning; Pat Koko

Absent Oak Park Committee: Michelle Thomas; Valerie Lester; Ade Onayemi, Trustee Liaison

Present River Forest Committee: Jean Buckley; Cathaleen Roach, River Forest Township Senior Outreach Coordinator

Absent River Forest: Ann O'Connell; Jim Flanagan; Sally Gibbs; Ruth Reko: Margaret Rudnik; Micah Hibler Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Supervisor; Karen Taubman, Trustee Liaison

Also Present: Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Township; Mary Ann Ojeda Chore & Care Coordinator Supervisor

INTRODUCTIONS

Brief introductions were made by the group.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The committee did not have a quorum so the February minutes were not approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Ade Onayemi was absent, so no OPT Liaison's Report was presented.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Cathaleen Roach, River Forest Senior Outreach Coordinator presented the report.

- River Forest Township had our monthly board meeting last night.
- Cathaleen reported on the River Forest Help Team-a group of volunteers to assist River Forest seniors, and thanked Pam and Carla for all of their efforts to coordinate this.
- Cathaleen also reported that Ken Blair is moving to Elmhurst so he has resigned from the board.
- Ruth thanked Cathaleen for her 5 years of service to the Township

Supervisor

Clarmarie I. Keenan

Clerk

Gregory P. White

Assessor

Ali ElSaffar

Trustees

Eric E. Davis

Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley

Ade Onayemi

Margaret Trybus

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www.
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Mahn fielded questions on her oral report.

- Pam introduced Mary Ann Ojeda who is the new Care Coordinator Supervisor. (Shawn Lewis position)
- The last Township Board meeting did approve the FY 2021 budget, and the budget is now posted for 30 day public review.
- The Board also voted on not looking at potential office space in the proposed new PDOP building at this time.
- Because of COVID-19, Senior Services staff have been working remotely and using a social distancing calendar when needing to come into office.
- Case managers have been working remotely since mid-March.
- Since mid-March to last week, 22,000 meals have been distributed. In just one week, an entirely new distribution platform was implemented. Approximately 420 individuals are delivered "meals" each week, resulting in a 68% increase in home delivered meals.
- Senior Services is using the existing vendor who was able to switch to frozen meals. We are supplementing our home meal delivery with "shelf-stable" meals paid for by AgeOptions. Before Covid-19, we were able to provide one meal a day to a senior; now we are providing more than one meal a day with these shelf-stable meals. We wanted to do to make it easier for our seniors NOT to have to leave home for food.
- In addition, there is another new program from Age Options for additional groceries to be delivered to seniors in the western suburbs. Senior Services recommended seniors be added to this list who are more nutritionally at risk.
- The Dine-Out program has been continuing throughout sheltering in place. Geppetto's closed before the shutdown, so that restaurant is no longer in the program.
- Ruth Reko asked that these statistics concerning delivered meals be shared. "This is a story that needs to be told."
- Pam mentioned that the Annual Report FYE: 3/31/2020 is also available. In spite of March 2020 being so heavily impacted by Covid, the fiscal year still looked good with the Township achieving 108% of projected revenue and just 102% of projected expenses.
- When asked about the health of the staff, Pam reported no known COVID cases.
- The nutrition staff and case managers are conducting extensive well-being calls.
- The Park District and Senior Services have partnered together in order for us to receive homemade cloth masks to meet the needs of our seniors. Any senior requesting a mask will receive one. Senior Services first concentrated on getting masks to our clients in the senior apartment buildings.
- Transportation has been providing services for those seniors with dialysis and medical

appointments. Our drivers have also been assisting other community partners with support such as helping Beyond Hunger with deliveries. Transportation will NOT be providing rides to the Farmers Market until we resume providing rides to regular grocery stores.

- Our Staff have been providing their normal services virtually, such as assessments, re-determinations, money management, and Memory Cafe.
- The first virtual Memory Cafe had 5 participants and 5 staff. A pre-Covid intern has arranged programming for all future Memory Cafes thru the end of the year.
- Pam stated she is proud of the whole team. There was understandably some initial anxiety, but the Board has been very supportive, and Pam stated her mantra is “we need to overcommunicate; be patient, be kind, and it is OK to be stressed”.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee

Pat Koko stated even though all the celebrating seniors events were cancelled, the committee wanted to post the names of those celebrated this year, and they were included in the Wednesday Journal. Cathaleen will be reproducing the photographs and has ordered a gift for the Celebrating Seniors recipients. Four seniors were assisted with the Celebrating Seniors assistance fund.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pat also reported that there will be no Book Fair this summer - it was going to be a 50th anniversary of the book fair.

Pam reminded everyone to complete the census.

The Wabi Sabi Film Festival will resume on June 19th at 10:00am with the movie "Alive Inside".

Center for Gerontology Speaker Series will virtually resume tomorrow, May 21st.

ASA has two future seminars on social isolation.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 24, at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.



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Senior Services of Oak Park and River Forest Townships Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

- ❖ Call to Order
- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Approval of Minutes
- ❖ Public Comments
- ❖ Liaisons' Reports
- ❖ Director's Report
- ❖ Updates to Sub-Committee Projects
- ❖ Other Business and Announcements
- ❖ Adjournment

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