



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES

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**SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES
FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS
Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7pm (virtual)**

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

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

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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, May 18, 2022, and called to order by Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:03 PM.

Present Oak Park Committee: Valerie Lester, Pat Koko, Tim Thomas-Trustee Liaison.

Absent Oak Park Committee: Joy Aaronson, Drew Roskos.

Present River Forest Committee: Ruth Reko, Margaret Rudnik.

Absent River Forest Committee: Carolyn Foster, Micah Hibler, Jean Buckley, Jim Flanagan, Lydia Manning.

Also Present: Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Betsy Burton-Kelly, Senior Outreach Coordinator for River Forest Township.

INTRODUCTIONS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from April 20, 2022, meeting. Valerie Lester and Ruth Reko's name will be changed as noted. There was no quorum for the meeting so the minutes will be corrected and presented for approval at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Tim Thomas-Trustee Liaison presented the report.

- Re-branding and messaging framework discussion at last Township Board meeting.
- New printed materials will be coming out soon.
- Re-branding partner event will be at 11 am on June 6th.
- Oak Park Township will be having a table at "The Day in our Village" community event.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

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

- Coffee Monday was held and Mary Anne Ojeda, Supervisor of the Care Coordination department presented information on Senior Services programs.
- Betsy is providing support for the Celebrating Senior Week.
- Betsy attended several talks with the Village to understand more about housing options.
- Betsy attended the Healthy Aging Fair, several community programs attended and provided information. A total of 50 people were in attendance.
- The Housing Forum on Saturday and talked about the Home Sharing program. One person approached her to request information as she might be interested.
- The Sheridan and the Fire Department provided an event, incase of emergency packets were distributed among the attendees.
- Betsy and Carla met with representatives from the Village as they had some safety questions regarding the Home Sharing pilot project.
- Mather Lifeways ended their Telephone Topics program.
- Betsy continues to Send out monthly River Forest Township emails as well as weekly Community Connect emails.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- There was staff shortage and location conflicts for some events offered by the Township, and due to this situation, some events needed to be postponed or rescheduled.
- On-line programing has been offered and the numbers for this programs are increasing.
- The department is trying to get all the approvals for the Re-branding initiative. Many different actions need to be finalized for the initiative to be completed.

- Recognition Certificates will be created and mailed to the Celebrating Seniors 2022 Seniors over 60 honorees.
- A new pilot program is being introduced in partnership with the Coordinated Care Alliance and AgeOptions. The Home Meds Program is an evidence-based program offering a computerized risk assessment to identify medication related hazards. Participants provide a list of their medications which is entered into a database to be analyzed, alert for risks, and reviewed by a pharmacist. A report is then generated that the participant can use for discussion with their doctor regarding risk of interactions and recommendation for improvement.
- Interviews continue for filling the open Care Coordinator position, Jatese Barbour was just hired as Intake Specialist/Care Coordinator.
- Work continues, for the Adult Protective Services request for proposal, the Township reapplies during each application cycle to continue providing this service to our communities.
- AgeOptions has funded the Township for a part-time Housing Specialist position, a job description is being created. The funding was made available due to over 20% increase in older adults at risk of homelessness in the area. Participants in the area have faced many obstacles accessing housing in a timely manner due to the complexity of the process and difficulty with documentation. Staff will be available to advocate and assist with navigating through the process.
- Agreements for the Home Repair Program have been received approving the expansion of services to residents of Oak Park and River Forest age 18-59 with a disability. In addition, the Capable Project will be running as a pilot in 2022-2023. This program brings together a nurse, occupational therapist, and handy person to work with residents age 65+ to implement home modifications which allow them to safely age in place. Flyers reflecting this new information will be created and distributed in the community.
- The RFQ for CEDA site application is being completed for submission.
- Senior Services staff have been making several presentations and attending different events.
- Township re-branding celebration event invitations have been distributed

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors

Pat Koko shared information regarding Celebrating Seniors activities for the week of May 12th- 19th and the success of the scavenger hunt.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Membership
 - Joan Greene resigned from her role on the committee due to a conflict with family caregiving.
 - Please share information about the committee with your friends and neighbors, share our application, and encourage them to join us.

- Val mentioned that spam Calls have increased, and Township participants are turning off their phones to avoid these calls. This is making it hard for volunteers and Care Coordinators to get in contact with participants and may be increasing isolation.
- In-person dining continues to be closed. Staff is exploring options for hot meals to be available for pick up.
- Upcoming events include Memorial Day Parade, A Day In Our Village on June 5th and the 4th of July parade. Pat Koko mentioned a Library book fair will be held the first weekend of August.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 7:00pm.

ADJOURMENT

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 8:04 PM.