



# OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

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

**Wednesday, May 17 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, May 17, 2023, and called to order by Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:15 PM.

**Present Oak Park Committee:** Pat Koko, Valerie Lester, Joy Aaronson, and Drew Roskos

**Absent Oak Park Committee:** Sabryna Joi King-Bell and Tim Thomas-Trustee Liaison

**Present River Forest Committee:** Ruth Reko and Carolyn Foster

**Absent River Forest Committee:** Jean Buckley, Jim Flanagan, Briselda Gjikondi, and Lydia Manning

**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

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The committee elected Val Lester as Chairperson and Drew Roskos as Vice Chairperson. Ruth Reko will chair the June meeting since Val will be out of town.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 19 meeting. Val Lester moved to approve the minutes. Joy Aaronson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **OPT LIAISON'S REPORT**

There was no report.

## **RFT LIAISON'S REPORT**

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

- Celebrating Seniors events
  - Great turn out at the Celebrating Seniors luncheon at Concordia University
  - DMV “Super Seniors Mobile Event” was very well attended; additional event including real ID will be scheduled on 10/23
- Mike Carioscio has been appointed by the River Forest Township board and will join our next meeting
- John Becvar has been appointed as the new Township clerk
- Hosting a Q&A with Cook County Assessor, Fritz Kaegi on 5/23
- Memorial Day parade on 5/29
- Jean Meister stepping down from Mental Health committee
- Youth Services is sponsoring a backpack event; Pam will share Amazon wishlist

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- Township news
  - Working on finding members for Decennial committee
  - Have a potential new Senior Services committee member from Oak Park
- Upcoming events
  - West Suburban Area Plan on Aging public hearing at Berkley Public Library on 5/25
  - Day in our Village on 6/4
  - Township Officials of Cook County session on 6/22
  - Comprehensive Look at Changing needs of demographics in Cook County “It Matters Where You Live” on 6/28
- Volunteer Opportunity
  - Marc Blesof and Pam are in discussions with Dr. Becca Levy on ageism project and are looking for partners in the community to lead discussion groups
- The Illinois Department on Aging newsletter shared The Journal's article about our Money Management Program
- Update on effort with Coordinated Care Alliance
  - \$50 increase in rate for redeterminations

- Pam has reached out to local state representatives to make sure they understand the importance of this initiative
- Val Lester suggested reaching out to AARP Illinois for lobbying assistance
- Vince Hartnett has been hired for our open Spanish speaking Care Coordinator role and started this week
- Funding Opportunities
  - Completed application for an Age Options grant to encourage people to return to congregate dining
  - Completed application for an IDOA grant for Adult Protective Services workforce retention and recruitment/training
  - Received approval for CMHB funding of our Older Adult Behavioral Health program for FY24
- Media Opportunities
  - Bianca provided information to Pam for an article on elder abuse in the June issue of Township Officials of Illinois magazine
  - Pam and Ashley met with the Village of Oak Park's videographer who will highlight Township programming
  - Pam is looking at revamping News & Views newsletter, possibly expanding to Township wide coverage of programs, maybe using LPI or other vendor

## **SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Celebrating Seniors – reported by Pat Koko**

- Hosted approximately 100 people at honoree luncheon
- There is discussion about continuing scavenger hunt in the fall to keep momentum going throughout the year
- There was discussion about need for more sponsors to strengthen finances

### **ASA Conference – reported by Drew Roskos**

- Drew attended the American Society on Aging Conference to present a research project on whether having a nature component in a physical space attracts social participation in senior living communities
- Themes of the conference included anti-ageism, mental health, combatting loneliness, brain health, and equity in aging
- Drew attended sessions on Grant Funding, Intergenerational Living, Law Advocacy for Older Adults, and Age Friendly Universities
- Talking Points is an app that allows mass messaging in multiple languages
- Keynote was an interview with Sanjay Gupta on brain health
- Drew will share a PDF of his poster

## **OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Ruth expressed her displeasure with poor attendance at this meeting
- Pam reminded committee we have one open space for a representative from Oak Park

- The committee thanked Ruth for her service as Committee Chair and Val and Drew for continuing service
- Pam is clarifying need for volunteers for Day in our Village
- No meeting of this committee in July or August

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:00pm.

### **ADJOURMENT**

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM.

---

SERVING OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST

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

[oakparktownship.org](http://oakparktownship.org) | [seniors@oakparktownship.org](mailto:seniors@oakparktownship.org)