



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 7:00pm

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 15, 2024, and called to order by Chairperson Valerie Lester at 7:05 PM.

Present Oak Park Committee: Valerie Lester, Drew Roskos, Joy Aaronson, Jean Peterman, Margaret Nafiseh, Don Anderson, and Trustee Liaison Eric Davis

Present River Forest Committee: Ruth Reko, Jean Buckley, Mike Carioscio, Carolyn Foster, Jim Flanagan, Briselda Gjikondi, and Lydia Manning (via video)

Absent Oak Park Committee: Pat Koko

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 Liz Brach, incoming committee member

INTRODUCTIONS

Val introduced new committee members Don Anderson and Liz Brach (starting in June) and thanked retiring committee member Joy Aaronson for her service. Each attendee introduced themselves, identified the Township they represent, and stated their favorite pastime.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 17, 2024, meeting. Mike Carioscio moved to approve the minutes. Joy Aaronson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ruth Reko informed the committee about a presentation on scams presented yesterday. Ruth provided materials from the presentation for distribution to seniors.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT – presented by Betsy Kelly

- There will be a housing tour in the fall hosted by Arbor West Neighbors
- The River Forest Fire Department hosted a talk at The Sheridan
- Betsy is attempting to reach out to Mather
- The River Forest Township submitted a FY25 tentative budget and appropriation
- Betsy is looking for volunteers to participate in the River Forest Memorial Day parade
- On June 3 at 6 pm there will be a River Forest Inclusion and Pride walk

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT – presented by Eric Davis

- OPT Board devoted most of their last meeting to Senior Services
 - The Board voted to change the name of the department to Senior and Disability Services
 - The Board broadly discussed disability services
 - The Board approved the proclamation recommended by this committee to recognize Older Americans' month
 - The Board appointed two members to the Senior committee
 - At Eric's request, new committee members Don Anderson and Liz Brach spoke about their background and why they wanted to join the committee
 - The Board reviewed and discussed the Senior and Disability Services proposed budget as presented by Director Mahn
- There was discussion regarding whether this committee should change its name to incorporate disability services and what that would involve
 - Pam explained that nothing changed structurally and that the department has always served disabled people ages 18 and above
 - While Oak Park Township, by contract, provides services to the residents of River Forest, there is no requirement for the River Forest Township Board to approve this name change

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Ana Meneses, our new Benefits Administrator started this week and is SHIP certified
- Pam and the Transportation team are in the second round of interviews for the open full-time driver position
- Volunteers are needed for Money Management and Meal Delivery programs
- There will be a ribbon cutting for the new Welcome Center – date to be announced
- Pam met with new River Forest Township Supervisor John Bevcar

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Eric encouraged committee members to share Township posts on their private social media
- Drew Roskos shared his experience presenting on reusing buildings for affordable housing for older adults
- OMA training
 - New committee members are required to complete OMA training
 - Current committee members must retake training once each calendar year
- Letter to the Editor
 - Jean Buckley presented her letter on how the Township provides bus transportation to the Farmer's Market for committee review
- Pam will coordinate orientations for the two new committee members
- June meeting will not be held on June 19, as scheduled, because the Township offices are closed that day for Juneteenth. Committee members were asked to check their email for information regarding rescheduling the June meeting

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee chair Valerie Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:12 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 | seniors@oakparktownship.org