



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

**SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES
FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS
Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 7pm (virtual)**

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

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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, October 19, 2022, and called to order by Chairperson Ruth Reko at 7:03 PM.

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

Absent Oak Park Committee:

Present River Forest Committee: Ruth Reko, Lydia Manning, Jim Flanagan, Carolyn Foster, Margaret Rudnik, Briselda Gjikondi.

Absent River Forest Committee: Jean Buckley.

Also Present: Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Yazmin Morales, Information & Resource/Housing Specialist for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Betsy Burton-Kelly, Senior Outreach Coordinator for River Forest Township; Caroline Wilz Older Adults Benefits Administrator at Oak Park & River Forest Townships. Matt Baron.

SERVING OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST

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

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INTRODUCTIONS

All the attendees had the opportunity to say their names and the Township they represent. Betsy Kelly introduced Briselda Gjikondi, new River Forest Committee member, and Briselda shared information about her background and her interests in serving the community.

Caroline Wilz was introduced as the new Older Adults Benefits Administrator for Senior Services. Caroline had the opportunity to share her professional background with the attendees.

Jim Flanagan recognized Matt Baron, Pat Koko, Lydia Manning, and Pamela Mahn for their dedication and contributions to the Celebrating Seniors Coalition. An award was provided, their names will be added to the trophy and the award will be displayed at the Oak Park Township.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from September 21, 2022, meeting. Valerie Lester moved to approve the minutes. Jim Flanagan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Micah Hibler has been a representative for River Forest and has not been able to attend the meetings. He has resigned from the committee and the River Forest Township Board has approved Briselda Gjikondi for the open position.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sabryna attended a meeting with the police enforcement unit, in which it was discussed the many scams/frauds occurring in the area, many of these situations target seniors and vulnerable populations. Sabryna shared a personal story that occurred outside of her residence and made suggestions on how to prevent unsafe/uncomfortable situations. Sabryna suggested to the meeting attendees to be vigilant of their surroundings and to never engaged with an unknown/suspicious person.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Oak Park representative Tim Thomas-Trustee Liaison provided the recent updates:

- The Oak Park Township was a fraud victim. A check was reported stolen from one of the vendors, unfortunately the check was stolen and cashed. There is an ongoing investigation. Conversation continues with Board members, regarding identity theft. Different situations and suggestions were shared among committee participants.

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- Both Townships, Oak Park and River Forest must setup a committee to study efficiency of Township government. The process and outcomes for this committee were explained. Tim asked that if anyone is interested in joining the committee, please let the Township know.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

River Forest representative Betsy Kelly provided the recent updates:

- Ruth Reko, Tony Roeder of Marion Street Services, and Betsy Kelly from River Forest Township have been asked to create a shortened version of the housing forum which was provided at Concordia University earlier this year to be presented at The Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizens Services Committees (ITASCSC) in Springfield. Pam will also be in attendance.
- HomeSharing initiative forms are being finalized and Betsy continues to spread the word about this pilot program; by doing some outreach and attending different activities throughout the community.
- During the last Coffee Monday, a physical therapist attended and completed participants assessments. Lydia will be invited to the next event to talk about Dementia Friendly efforts.
- Betsy has reached out to Silver Sneakers and hopefully a session can be scheduled soon.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships shared a written report via email and asked the committee for questions or comments. Additional information:

- Pam spoke with the Executive Director for the Northwest Housing Partnership, they are finalizing the Capable Project flyer and hopefully, the program will begin November 1st. The Capable Project is an extension of the Home Repair program where an RN, OT and Home maintenance personnel will conduct assessments at the client's home for modifications needed.
- Pam met with the Oak Park fire Department regarding the "Ice Packet" project. This program provides comprehensive medical information that would be placed inside the clients freezer for easy access to first responders in case of an emergency.

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They also discussed the Key Box program, another safety related program, and ensuring Township information is provided on the Village of Oak Park website in case there are older adults who are unable to afford the cost of the key box or the installation. The box is to be used by emergency personnel to gain access to your residence. As a result, property would not be destroyed by emergency personnel trying to access your residence when responding to a call for emergency.

- Discussed the bracelet program, available in Oak Park and River Forest, where the client can register and provide information for the police department to access in case of emergency. There is also a special needs registry, if people don't want a bracelet they can register and help the emergency personnel identify individuals needs upon their dispatch. - Val will share more information with Pam regarding "Smart 911".
- The new Ecolane routing transportation software will be implemented on October 24th.
- Three nominations were submitted to ITASCSC/ Pam and Jim worked together to provide the following:
 - Volunteer of the year- Award will be presented to Pat Koko
 - Innovative Program of the year – Grief Support Group
 - Elected Official of the year – Township Supervisors Clarmarie Keenan and Carla Sloan
- The Illinois Department on Aging provided funding that was used to buy magnets with brief overview of the programs offered at the Township.
- Upcoming plans for additional community outreach is underway.

Review of meeting Schedule:

- Next meeting in January
- New Year Celebration event suggestions:
 - Restaurant vs Catering
 - Rooms available, table spacing, and recommendations.
 - Opportunity Knocks catering
 - Donation, or socialization no business
 - Poll/Voting

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors

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No updates

Library updates

The library continues to provide and send notices regarding senior activities. Pam will send a follow up email regarding support with library efforts.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joy is retiring from AgeOptions but will continue to be part of the Senior Committee. Tai-Chi for arthritis /Fall Prevention program was a success and participants would like to see the program continue.

Pat met with Deborah Clair regarding an intergenerational program at Wonder Works.

Lydia will be sending an email regarding a series of screened films that provide opportunities for young adult participants to discuss movies with older adults. AgeOptions is providing the space for this opportunity.

Pam shared information regarding the visit from the Montessori children at the Township for game day and shared the fun and enjoyment by the kids and the older adults.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ruth Reko adjourned the meeting at 8:04 PM.

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