



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

SENIOR SERVICES

SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS Wednesday, October 18, 2023 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, October 18, 2023, and called to order by Chairperson Valerie Lester at 7:06 PM.

Present Oak Park Committee: Valerie Lester, Joy Aaronson, Drew Roskos, Sabryna-Joi King-Bell, Patricia Koko, Jean Peterman, Margaret Nafiseh and Margie Trybus – Substitute Trustee Liaison

Present River Forest Committee: Ruth Reko, Carolyn Foster, Jean Buckley, and Briselda Gjikondi

Absent River Forest Committee: Mike Carioscio, Jim Flanagan, 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

INTRODUCTIONS

Each attendee introduced themselves, identified the Township they represent, and the other community organizations for which they volunteer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 20, 2023 meeting. Ruth Reko moved to approve the minutes. Joy Aaronson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

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

- The Assessor's office has been busy with Cook County Board of Review
- River Forest Township is in final phases of designing a mental health resource guide which will be mailed to all residents of River Forest
- Work continues on a new website which has a target completion date of November 2
- River Forest Township has a support group for parents of children with IEPs
- The next Parent University event will be held November 15 at OPRF high school
- Super Seniors Mobile event will be held October 23 at River Forest Township
- Mahjong and Pickleball remain popular programs
- Sargeant Ben Ransom will present about fraud and scams at Coffee Monday on November 6
- Lisa Peters-Beumer from Concordia is looking for intergenerational families for movie viewing and discussion

TRUSTEE LIASON REPORT

Trustee Margie Trybus presented the report:

- The Township Trustees have been working with the Decennial Committee to review Township programs, policies, and partnerships. Goals are to identify potential efficiencies, forecast the future for Township programs and policies, and provide a report
- The search for a Township Manager continues

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Pam and Megan are working with the Finance team in preparation for the levy discussion at next week's Board meeting
- Transportation Manager Lori Strong presented to a group of parents raising young adults with disabilities about the transportation the Township provides
- The Chore program is seeking a new agency to supplement services

- Open enrollment for Medicare began October 15
- Senior Services employee Yazmin Morales was actively involved in preparing and presenting the Village's Hispanic Heritage month programming
- The Township's Latinx affinity group will sponsor an ofrenda for Day of Dead remembrances of passed family members, friends, pets or co-workers
- Currently have 15 participants in PEARLS program targeting depression in Seniors
- The Township received 72 slots for holiday gift baskets for older adults
- The Township referrals of participants to Beyond Hunger is currently 193.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sponsorship Opportunities
 - Pam asked for feedback on the Program Sponsorship Opportunities brochure. The main concerns were:
 - Potential financial complications of a taxing body soliciting funds
 - Continued equitability when working with corporate sponsors
 - Pat Koko motioned that Senior Services go ahead with this program. Drew Roskos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Continued discussion on committee role
 - Val asked for clarification as to whether the committee was looking for a single project or a variety of smaller initiatives to support the Township.
 - The committee agreed they wanted to focus on a variety of smaller initiatives.
- Val will submit a letter to the Editor of the Wednesday Journal on the PEARLS program

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, and will likely be held at Salerno's. Details to follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee chair Valerie Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

SERVING OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST

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