

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The quarterly meeting of the Senior Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 and called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Present Oak Park Committee: Sharon Stolz; Donald Kane; Sarah Arnett

Absent Oak Park Committee: Mary Marling; Dr. Kenneth Blair; Patricia Koko; Clarmarie Keenan, Trustee Liaison

Present River Forest Committee: Linda Ryan; James Flanagan; Dr. Katherine Walsh; Mary Therese Small; Carol Cox

Absent River Forest: Peggi Mizen; Veronica Krawczyk, River Forest Township Supervisor

Also Present: David Boulanger, Supervisor of Oak Park Township; Desiree Scully-Simpkins, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Pamela Mahn, Administrative Associate for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Flanagan welcomed the new Oak Park and River Forest committee members. Brief introductions were made to the group.

SPECIAL REPORT

Oak Park Township Supervisor David Boulanger attended the meeting to report on the plans for the new Senior Services facility. He presented detailed information to the committee regarding the approval of plans for a drive thru branch of the Forest Park National Bank to be located on South Blvd. The drive thru branch will exit to the alley adjacent to the Senior Services facility. Accessibility to the new site, parking options, walking routes and bicycle racks were also discussed. The contractor bid opening is scheduled for September 27, 2011. It is anticipated that construction will begin at the end of October.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the June 15, 2011 meeting. Linda Ryan moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Katherine Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Supervisor Krawczyk was unable to attend the meeting.

- No report.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Keenan was unable to attend the meeting.

- No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's reports were included in the committee packets mailed to members. The committee discussed the reports and Director Scully-Simpkins reported the following additional information:

- Red Tape Cutter Program funding has been cut.
- The Illinois Department on Aging has cut 1/3 of their staff. We are waiting to hear about cuts in programming.
- The LIHEAP program is now utilizing the STARZ system for electronic filing of applications. There have been many technical difficulties with the site and the new application process. We have had to move to taking 4 appointments per day when we used to be able to complete 12 – 20 applications in the same amount of time. The program began September 1, 2011 for seniors, disabled, and shut off accounts. October 1, 2011 is when the program opens up to all ages.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee

Chairperson Flanagan reminded the Senior Committee that the Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee is open to new volunteers and involvement. He then reported the following:

- Efforts are underway to recruit and assign member to committees.
- New events have been discussed for next year including a pancake breakfast; a Walk, Run, Roll event; fundraisers; and a Celebrating Seniors facebook page.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2011. The agenda will be to develop a rough calendar for 2012.

To date, the funds raised from Celebrating Seniors have gone to purchase a mattress for a woman with bedbugs, to assist a resident with repairs from flood damage, and to provide some assistance for a couple suffering financial hardship. The Sub-Committee is working on getting the word out to various gate keepers in the community so that referrals for assistance are directed appropriately.

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Mary Therese Small and Mary Marling are working on interviewing chief stakeholders for the program and open house portions of the event.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Flanagan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Donald Kane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.