

SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS

CALL TO ORDER

The quarterly meeting of the Senior Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 and called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present Oak Park Committee: Barbara Coats; Patricia Koko; Mary Marling; Sandra Rowe; Ade Onayemi, Trustee Liaison

Absent Oak Park Committee: Dr. Kenneth Blair; Dr. Lydia Manning

Present River Forest Committee: James Flanagan; Dr. Katherine Walsh; Carol Cox; Mary Therese Small; Linda Ryan; Chris Hauri; Jean Buckley; Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Supervisor

Absent River Forest: None

Also Present: Desiree Scully-Simpkins, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Pamela Mahn, Assistant to the Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships.

INTRODUCTIONS

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 19, 2014 meeting. Sandra Rowe moved to approve the minutes. Patricia Koko seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Flanagan recognized River Forest committee member Mary T. Small for all of her hard work. He noted his admiration for everything that she's done for us, her family, friends and neighbors.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Supervisor Sloan reported the following:

- The Village of River Forest gave Mary T. Small a nice send-off including a resolution honoring her and an honorary designation of the 300 block of Gale Avenue as "Mary T. Small Way".
- The River Forest Library will be granting Mary T. Small trustee emeritus status.
- Thank you to all who participated in the wonderful Celebrating Seniors week.
- The Senior Services bus will be participating in the River Forest Memorial Day parade.

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- The Village of River Forest is now talking about a collaboration with River Forest Township.
- River Forest Township and the River Forest Library are co-sponsoring coffees and computer lab classes for seniors.
- Supervisor Sloan is working on a six-month long program series called “Celebrating Seniors All Year Long” which is open to all seniors from Oak Park and River Forest. From June through November 2014 there will be programs held either at the library or the community center in River Forest. Flyers are available throughout the community and at the Oak Park and River Forest Township offices.

OPT LIAISON’S REPORT

Trustee Onayemi reported the following:

- Trustee Onayemi will remain as the Senior Committee liaison for the Oak Park Town Board for another year.
- The Town Board strategic plan has been passed and the Township is now moving on to implementation of the plan.
- The Town Board approved an artwork exhibition policy for the Township buildings. Nutrition Program Manager, Celeste Duignan, provided the framework for the policy with the goal being that items displayed are representative of the community.
- The Township bus will be used in the Oak Park Independence Day parade.
- There will be a public hearing on May 27, 2014 for the tentative Township budget.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Director’s reports were included in the committee packets e-mailed to members. The committee discussed the reports. Director Scully-Simpkins reported the following:

- The case management team recently interviewed to replace one full time case manager and to fill a half time position which is open due to one of our full time case managers moving to part time. The team used Chicago Bridge for advertising the position and received over thirty resumes in less than 12 hours of the positions being posted online. Both candidates being considered are former Kott Gerontology Institute Scholars.
- The Transportation Coordinator and Director are conducting interviews for the recently vacated bus driver position.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee

- There were over forty events scheduled during Celebrating Seniors week covering a wide variety of topics including musical reviews, aging gracefully and a tour of Florence. All events were well attended and there were opportunities for event evaluations and feedback which is still being tabulated.

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- The closing luncheon this year included Harry Porterfield as the keynote speaker and was the most well attended closing luncheon for Celebrating Seniors week to date.
- It is estimated that approximately \$10,000 was raised this year which will be utilized to assist seniors throughout the year with emergency needs.
- A wrap up meeting will be held in the near future.
- Chairperson Flanagan thanked everyone for their support and commented that next year will be the five year anniversary of Celebrating Seniors week. He is pleased to see the growth of the committee which is now up to about twenty volunteers. He stated that he's already been receiving suggestions, comments and ideas on where to start some things next year and that there will be a focus on getting the sub-committees formed early.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Flanagan presented an idea regarding making Oak Park and River Forest more senior friendly communities. Issues to be reviewed would include means of egress from local businesses, covered awnings to protect walkways, using colors around door frames to distinguish thresholds, etc. He stated that local organizations and businesses could be assessed and certified as "Senior Friendly" which might be denoted by a decal that could be displayed in their entrance.

Director Scully-Simpkins commented that she would investigate further since she remembers seeing some information through the Village of Oak Park regarding a study on aging in place.

The committee agreed that it would be a good idea to look into a project like this further and that it may be helpful to see if the local hospitals might like to be involved.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the Senior Services 1st floor meeting room at 130 S. Oak Park Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Flanagan adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.