

## **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, March 20, 2013 and called to order at 7:15 p.m.

*Present Oak Park Committee: Dr. Kenneth Blair; Patricia Koko; Sandra Rowe; Mary Marling; Clarmarie Keenan, Trustee Liaison*

*Absent Oak Park Committee: Sharon Stolz and Barbara Coats*

*Present River Forest Committee: Linda Ryan; James Flanagan; Carol Cox; Mary Therese Small*

*Absent River Forest: Dr. Katherine Walsh; Veronica Belmonte, River Forest Township Supervisor*

*Also Present: Carla Sloan; River Forest Township Clerk; 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**

Brief introductions were made to the group by all members.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 28, 2012 meeting. Carol Cox moved to approve the minutes. Patricia Koko seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **OPT LIAISON'S REPORT**

Trustee Keenan reported the following:

- The FY 14 budget cycle has begun. Director Scully-Simpkins presented the Senior Services budget last week.

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## **RFT LIAISON'S REPORT**

Supervisor Belmonte was absent from the meeting. Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Clerk, was sent in her place and reported the following:

- Supervisor Belmonte is not running for re-election as Township Supervisor, she is running for a position as Township trustee instead. River Forest Township Clerk, Carla Sloan, is running for Township Supervisor.
- The Town Board passed the proclamation for Older Americans' Month.
- An agreement is being negotiated between Youth Services and the Community Mental Health Board.
- Police Chief Weiss is holding a security program at the police station during Celebrating Seniors Week.
- Officer Troy Fields attended the Legislative Breakfast at Oak Park Township Senior Services to discuss Elder Abuse and working with the Elder Abuse Investigators at Senior Services.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Director's reports were included in the committee packets mailed to members. The committee discussed the reports.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee**

- The "Sixty Over Sixty" nominations have been received.
- Ribbon Fest will once again be held as the opening event honoring the nominees and kicking off Celebrating Seniors week.
- The "Treasures and Trinkets" event will be held once again at the Oak Park Arms.
- There are over 40 events scheduled on the calendar of events during Celebrating Seniors week.
- Chairperson Flanagan has worked to expand Celebrating Seniors to other communities this year. There are currently 28 communities represented on the Celebrating Seniors website. Aging Care Connections represents 22 of the communities and has received \$10,000 in funding from Townships in their area for Celebrating Seniors events and expenses.
- The search for a keynote speaker at the closing event is underway. Suggestions have included Bob Love from the Chicago Bulls and Harry Porterfield from CBS.
- There will be a "Hot Rods & Revelry" event held on Madison Street in Forest Park this year on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The resource guide is being reviewed by the editor.
- A goal for next year will be to make sure that local businesses know about opportunities to advertise in the Celebrating Seniors resource guide.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Director Scully-Simpkins distributed the preliminary information gathered regarding emergency preparedness information for review by the committee members. Ultimately, the goal will be to consolidate the information make it available electronically as well.

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The case management team is conducting wellness checks for seniors in Oak Park and River Forest as needed. Chairperson Flanagan noted that the Citizen Corps volunteers are available to assist the case managers with wellness checks if necessary.

Chairperson Flanagan reiterated the creation of a volunteer database available on the web at [volunteerlink.us](http://volunteerlink.us). This site serves as a portal that shows a listing of volunteer opportunities within our community. In addition, it also serves as a repository for volunteer information to be used in times of crisis, need or emergency. Further development has been stalled, but is hoped to proceed in the near future.

Chairperson Flanagan reported that there will be a full scale exercise on April 13, 2013 utilizing emergency personnel and the medical reserve corps to practice the Cook County Department of Public Health's Mass Dispensing Plan for the communities of Elmwood Park, River Forest and Forest Park. This was part of the "Triple Community" plan discussed at the last meeting. There will be a training held this Saturday. He went on to explain that Celebrating Seniors, the Citizen Corps and the Medical Reserve Corps came out of the area residents' need for assistance during the 2009 floods.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will held on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the senior services conference room.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Flanagan adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.