

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, November 20, 2013 and called to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Absent Oak Park Committee: 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, Administrative Associate for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships.

INTRODUCTIONS

New River Forest committee members Chris Hauri and Jean Buckley were welcomed by the committee. Brief introductions were made to the group.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the September 18, 2013 meeting. Dr. Ken Blair moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Kathy Walsh seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Onayemi reported the following:

- Oak Park Township levy process is underway. The tentative levy passed last Tuesday.
- Oak Park Township is breaking away from the Village of Oak Park for employee health insurance benefits. The Township will be participating in a municipal health insurance benefits cooperative. The Township is seeking additional information and cost savings not provided by the village.
- The strategic planning process has begun. Trustees are doing some interviews while consultants are doing others. The goal is to gather this information by January and proceed with the process.

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RFT LIAISON’S REPORT

Supervisor Sloan reported the following:

- Welcome Chris Hauri and Jean Buckley to the Senior Committee.
- The Township levy process is underway.
- The River Forest library is the largest hub of traffic for senior citizens in River Forest. Supervisor Sloan is going to the library for their coffee hour, technology class and other events to talk about Township services, possible opportunities for collaboration and to get an idea about what services residents would like to see.
- Supervisor Sloan would like to organize an event to bring interested groups of River Forest residents over from the River Forest community center to Senior Services to orient them to the nutrition site and the other programs and services that are available.
- A Power of Attorney workshop was held on November 1, 2013 at the River Forest Community Center.
- The Oak Park River Forest Rotary is holding the first Festival of Trees at Holley Court Terrace on November 29-30, 2013. Oak Park and River Forest Townships have collaborated to purchase trees for display at the event. A silent auction will be held and the proceeds will benefit rotary.
- Next week Supervisor Sloan will be meeting with Director Scully-Simpkins to discuss Senior Services.
- The different heads of government in River Forest met regarding starting a collection of goods to assist those affected by the tornado in Washington, IL. There will be a collection of items including cleaning supplies, bleach, gloves, tools, eye protection, blankets and winter clothing.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

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

- The new senior services bus will be delivered tomorrow. It is a 21 passenger bus equipped with a wheelchair lift. The OAK-7 bus that is being replaced was traded in and the value was used toward the payment of the new bus.
- Director Scully-Simpkins attended the Township Officials of Illinois conference last week. Senior Services won an award for the “Senior Innovative Program of the Year” for the intergenerational work for the book “Spread” that was produced and distributed during Celebrating Seniors week of 2013.
- The Coordinated Care Alliance (CCA) is close to signing a contract with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. There are contracts with other Managed Care Organization (MCO’s) currently in place for other service areas many of which are down state. They are requesting their members contribute an additional \$4,500. Director Scully-Simpkins has told them that before the Township is willing to commit additional funds to the project that she would like to see a business plan, potential number of clients in the Oak Park and River Forest area, and possible rate of return for their investment. The CCA has responded to her request and stated that the information is currently unavailable, but that they are working on it.

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There will be another conference call next week to discuss Health Spring and Blue Cross Blue Shield. Tentatively these transitions to the managed care organizations will happen in May 2014. If we move forward with CCA membership we will be responsible to provide the assessment for the clients who are transitioned to the MCO. The MCO will then complete the care plan and we will be responsible for implementation and monitoring. If senior services doesn't commit to serving the residents of Oak Park and River Forest through this membership, another agency will be assigned to our service area. Currently the MCO's are entrusted to refer participants for transportation and meal delivery service. AgeOptions is in deliberations with the MCO's regarding who will conduct the assessments for meals.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee

- Celebrating Seniors Week is scheduled for May 15-22, 2014.
- Requests have been mailed out to donors from 2013 to remind them to keep Celebrating Seniors on their list for a donation in 2014.
- The River Forest Library is holding a Celebrating Seniors informational session.
- There are six new members on various Celebrating Seniors committees.
- The year- end schedule is currently being developed and members are reaching out to local dignitaries.
- Nominations for the 2014 "60 Over 60" end December 31, 2013. The website www.celebratingseniors.net has applications available online or you can get them from Pat Koko or Chairperson Flanagan.
- Jill Wagner is tentatively remaining on the Celebrating Seniors Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will held on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the Senior Services 2nd floor conference room at 130 S. Oak Park Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Blair adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.