



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES

130 SOUTH OAK PARK AVENUE, OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60302

SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS

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CALL TO ORDER

The quarterly meeting of the Senior Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 and called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present Oak Park Committee: Dr. Lydia Manning; Patricia Koko; Dr. Kenneth Blair; Mary Marling; Sandra Rowe; Phyllis Russell.

Absent Oak Park Committee: Barbara Bodner, Mary Cozzens, Trustee Liaison.

Present River Forest Committee: Carol Cox; Jean Buckley; Sally Gibbs; Cathaleen Roach, River Forest Township Senior Outreach Coordinator.

Absent River Forest: James Flanagan; Dr. Katherine Walsh; Chris Hauri; Linda Ryan; Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Supervisor.

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

Cathaleen Roach, introduced herself as the new Senior Outreach Coordinator for River Forest Township.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the June 17, 2015 meeting. Patricia Koko moved to approve the minutes. Sandra Rowe seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Cathaleen Roach provided the River Forest Liaison's Report:

- Outreach efforts are being conducted to various senior groups and organizations in Oak Park and River Forest including senior programming at the River Forest Library, and informational sessions at various churches and temples.

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- Collaboration efforts to provide programming are underway with various local government entities and organizations in River Forest and surrounding areas including Concordia University, the Center for Disability and Elder Law, and the River Forest Fire Department. Programs include:
 - Vials of Life
 - River Forest senior snow removal project (limited fee based)
 - Attorneys providing pro bono services to low income seniors and their caregivers for completion of power of attorney for healthcare and property documents as well as living wills.
- Youth Services has hired key people to work on the substance abuse awareness program. Vicki Scaman has been hired as the new project director for the new federal SAMHSA grant and Dr. Madison has been hired as director for IMPACT.
- Fall Sibshops have been added due to excellent feedback from the spring programming.
- The River Forest Mental Health Committee has identified suicide as a growing issue of concern in the community and is working to develop outreach and prevention strategies accordingly.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Cozzens was absent from the meeting.

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:

- Follow up with Margaret Provost-Fyfe from the Village of Oak Park regarding the AARP Livable Community project indicates that there is a significant investment of time and funding to pursue the project and there is no funding available at this time.
- There are new programs underway at the congregate lunch program including a "Great Books" book group and a "Fit and Strong" evidence-based exercise program. Both programs are going very well and the program manager has received feedback that participants would like the programs to continue.
- Age Options recently conducted a funded agency meeting at which there was discussion regarding the state funding delays. Age Options has encouraged agencies to look at their programs and services as well as their budgets to determine if there are adjustments that will be necessary if state funding is delayed for an extended period. All Title III-E Respite requests will be considered on an emergency, case by case basis. Programs where federal funding is matched by state funds will have the Notification of Grant Awards reduced to show only the federal portion. There is no promise of retroactive payment at this point from the state for these services. Age Options is leaving any individual program modifications up to the funded agencies.

Age Options has implemented a hiring freeze and is distributing the workload to other employees. They've limited the hours for their Information & Assistance position and are having the phones routed directly to the voicemail system for a portion of the work week. They are asking funded agencies for real life stories and examples of how the state and federally funded programs benefit our clients.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee

- Total figures for the fundraising during Celebrating Seniors week have not been finalized.

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- The Celebrating Seniors Coalition incurred a one-time expense of \$4,000 for trademarking the program.
- The “Calling All Collectors” event will be scheduled again in 2016. There will be additional seminars to go along with the event which may include information on the value of various collections, how to care for collections and information on insuring your collections.
- An abstract for the Celebrating Seniors Toolkit has being created and will be presented at the March 2016 American Society on Aging conference. Chairperson Flanagan, Pat Koko, and Lydia Manning will be presenting.
- There may be an upcoming mid-year awareness and fundraiser event.
- Celebrating Seniors Week 2016 will be May 12 – 19th. Ribbon Fest will be held on May 5th, Calling All Collectors will be on May 13th, and Battle of the Bands will be on May 14th.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Information on the Pathway Senior Living project proposed in River Forest was distributed to the committee. This project is identified for the corner of Lake Street and Park Avenue. Pathway has stated that there would be some initial rental preference given to Oak Park and River Forest residents. Options considered for this site have included condominiums, rentals with commercial space, and/or senior assisted living units. Cathaleen Roach asked for the committee to review the information presented and direct any questions or thoughts regarding the project to herself or Township Supervisor Carla Sloan. Next Monday, September 21, 2015, there will be a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting at River Forest Village Hall where interested committee members may attend and the trustees will take input on the project.

Lydia Manning reported that the Concordia Center for Gerontology received a \$15,000 grant to bring the production of “Soul Sisters” to the Oak Park and River Forest area. The production will be held at the Senior Services congregate dining program and tentative dates may be some time in November or December and February. She thanked Celeste Duignan, Senior Lunch Program Manager for her assistance in bringing the production to the community. She will send out more information to the committee when available.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 7:00 pm at Cucina Paradiso, 814 North Boulevard, Oak Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Blair adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.