



OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES

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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, October 18, 2017 and called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present Oak Park Committee: Barbara Bodner; Patricia Koko; Dr. Kenneth Blair; Joy Aaronson; Sandra Rowe; Margaret Trybus, Trustee Liaison.

Absent Oak Park Committee: Brett McNeil; Phyllis Russell

Present River Forest Committee: James Flanagan; Chris Hauri; Sally Gibbs; Jean Buckley; Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Supervisor.

Absent River Forest: Ruth Reko; Dr. Katherine Walsh; Ann O'Connell; Cathaleen Roach, River Forest Township Senior Outreach Coordinator.

Also Present: Pamela Mahn, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Township; Christopher Fox, Assistant to the Director; Judy Smith.

INTRODUCTIONS

Brief introductions were made by the group.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 21, 2017 meeting. Chris Hauri moved to approve the minutes. Joy Aaronson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Margaret Trybus reported the following:

- Trustee Trybus thanked everyone who helped celebrate Township Day. The Town Board is looking at ways to increase the profile of the Township to highlight how Township services are important and unique to our communities and how they differ from Village services. The idea of Township Day is something the Board would like to see continued.
- Trustee Trybus has been in discussion with Director Mahn regarding intergenerational programs and collaboration with Youth Services. Possible programs could focus on tutoring, mentoring, and relationship building.

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- One challenge for our youth programming is one of transportation. Trustee Trybus stated the Township is looking at ways to use the Township buses to pick up school age children and bring them to programs.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Township Supervisor, Carla Sloan reported the following:

- River Forest Township is celebrating their 100th Anniversary.
- Supervisor Sloan distributed a flyer detailing River Forest Township services.
- Supervisor Sloan provided information on “The Brain Health Initiative.” The goal is to do more in the brain health/dementia area, whether it is outreach, support, education, and safety.
- Oak Park and River Forest Police Departments will be participating in the bracelet program. These bracelets will have important information which will help law enforcement if they encounter a person with dementia who seems confused or lost.
- Sib Shops have started again in partnership with Thrive Counseling Center. Sib shops offer a support group for siblings of kids with mental health issues.
- Both Townships are working on suicide prevention. Catholic Charities, through its LOSS program, has a grief support group focused on helping participants deal with the loss of a loved one by suicide. They have started both an adult and teen drop-in support group in this community that meet at River Forest Township.
- The Community Health Needs Assessment has been completed, which will be used to establish priorities for funding and programming in the areas of physical health, mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse for the next five years. Carla stated that she will send the report to the members of the committee.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's reports were included in the committee packets e-mailed to members. Director Mahn fielded questions on the printed report and reported the following additional information:

- There was general discussion regarding transportation services. The Township has begun offering rides to places outside of Oak Park and River Forest such as Gottlieb, Loyola, and Hines. Given that we currently have three busses, the need for riders to go to places outside of our traditional boundaries must be balanced with the needs of riders to get to places within Oak Park and River Forest. Expanding hours has helped meet demand for requested rides.
- We have not yet heard from the State of IL regarding funding for routing software for our busses.
- There was general discussion about raising the awareness of scams and financial crimes committed against the elderly and disabled. Specific examples of recent scams were offered.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Celebrating Seniors Sub-Committee

Pat Koko reported the following:

- Planning is underway for Celebrating Seniors, and week-long events will be held from April 26, 2018-May 3, 2018.

- The committee is focusing heavily on the 60 over 60 program and have decided to reach out to the over 300 people that we have already honored in the program to help with this year's events.
- The committee talked about the resource guide and reaching out to see what parts of the resource guide people are using. Details of what will be included in the resource guide are currently being discussed.
- Stakeholder meetings will take place in January 2018.
- The 5K run and Pet Pals in the Park will again be part of the celebrations for this year.
- The committee is open to any ideas of other events that can be a part of the celebrations.

Reach Out Sub-Committee

Judy Smith reported on accomplishments of the Reach Out project thus far including the creation of a brochure, a survey, and orientation materials. The committee is putting together a small pilot project to see what kind of response they will get before launching it to the broader community. The target is to get about ten individuals to champion their block or condo building with a sampling of both communities. These individuals will help coordinate events on their block to allow neighbors to get to know each other, with the hope of extending the relationships to be there for each other.

Information Line Sub-Committee

Judy Smith reported on the progress of the committee. Ms. Smith stated that the sub-committee is looking at two projects. The longer term project will be to implement a 311 information and referral line in conjunction with other agencies in the community. Continued research into the specifics of how this program can work is being investigated.

The committee is also looking to put together a community directory that will offer a concise way to consolidate information about local resources. Additionally, the committee is looking into creating a calendar of community-wide events for older adults.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senior Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, which will be the Holiday Party. More specific information will be sent at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Flanagan adjourned the meeting at 8:05p.m.