

Youth Services Committee Meeting  
April 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

**In Attendance:** Marge T., Pat B., Carol Y., George B., Sarah M., Ashley S., John W., Ade O. Anna S. Willie M.

**Approval of last meeting's minutes:** Motion to approve made by carol Y. Seconded by Pat B.

**Liaison Reports:**

**Oak Park:** The board has approved all the granted amounts recommended by the committee so far at the last board meeting. The board expressed their appreciation for the committee's diligence while reviewing contract requests to ensure that all the goals and missions are met with the programs they continue to fund. Once the final decisions are made this evening on the remaining contracts, those recommendations will go back to the board for approval. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, all of the candidates running for the Township Board were elected and both D97 referendums were passed.

**River Forest:** River Forest has one current trustee that did not win the election so they will be welcoming one new trustee onto their board. The community health needs assessment is a major project the River Forest Township, along with the Oak Park Health Department, the Community Mental Health Board, Rotary and Oak Park Township are undertaking. Pillar one consists of a survey being sent out, pillar two is a stakeholders focus group and pillar 3 is a massive data and analysis search by the consulting firm they are using to pull together a comprehensive assessment.

Interviews are currently being held to replace the Director of Senior Services. The Senior Services committee is going through a rejuvenating period. Unlike the Youth services committee, they do not make funding decisions so they would like to undertake some new projects this year and are in discussion about what exactly those projects will be.

Springfield is moving forward on their consolidation plans. Township Supervisors and representatives went down last year to speak with legislators about the importance of township services and to explain why safe guards should be in place should consolidation happen. The bills died in last year's session, but representatives left feeling positive that if consolidation did happen, it seemed like people were on board and understood the importance of having those safe guards in place. Unfortunately, the house passed a bill (111-2) which states; by vote of a village board or a petition by a certain percent of residents, a binding referendum can be called and within 60 days, the Township will close. Those Bills are HB496 and Senate Bill 3.

**Director's Report:** John reviewed the Youth Services FY17 Annual report. Some of those highlights include: 25 contracts with agencies/organizations, 2000+ families, adults and seniors received Holiday Food and Gift Basket deliveries, 377 hours of community service were completed through the TIME program, 20 families completed intervention classes through FACE-IT, 102 Financial Aid Scholarships were awarded (80- Oak Park, 22- River Forest) and 110 Cargo Peace Circles were conducted.

John is continuing to build capacity to conduct Cargo Peace Circles for 5<sup>th</sup> grades at all 10 District 97 Schools in the fall of 2017. He was able to build a budget that allows 20 facilitators to get trained and 10 interns from 3 different universities have already been in contact with him.

## **New Business:**

Willie M. suggests that the Township have a liaison between D90, D97 and D200. He believes it would be a great opportunity to get onto the agenda and to be able to share information between not only the boards, but also the public. This is a topic the committee would like to explore more in the future.

## **Contract Review**

Below is the list of votes for FY18 Contracts:

JOINT:

- **Paper HeART:** Tye Johnson, Program Administrator, has decided to not pursue her grant request for this funding cycle. After the committee asked some follow up questions, this program decided that they would like to take this year off to do more planning and come back the next funding cycle with a stronger, more detailed outline.

OAK PARK:

- **JIM Class:**
  - Motion to fund at \$10,000.00 made by Pat B. with a proviso to get an MOU from their partners confirming their commitment
  - Motion seconded by Carol Y.
  - Motion passes unanimously

Rationale: One of the major concerns the committee had when initially reviewing this contract request was that it did not have the support of the D97 schools. Once the committee went back to the program administrators with these concerns, the administrators reached out to their liaisons from Hatch and Longfellow and have reaffirmed their commitment. Both schools have agreed to recruit to maximum enrollment for the upcoming year. Susan Mura, Maggie Cahill and D97 Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley have all committed to strengthening their support with the Center for Literacy. Parents were also impressed by the presentations made by youth during Community Night (March 23) where participants were able to show on tablets the multi-media research they had done on various topics. In that same meeting with Dr. Kelley, they also received her commitment that the Center for Literacy can attend every school's curriculum night in order to promote the JIM Class. Based on this information, it seems that the JIM program now has the infrastructure to pull off a successful year.

Committee members seem positive that the commitment level is back, a successful community night showed that parents have positive things to say about this program and it provides a unique way for students to collaborate.

- **Whittier Homework Helper:**

- No motion to fund

Rationale: Even after reading through the supplementary material provided by program administrators, committee members still questioned whether this program fits in with their focus. While they do not dispute the success of this program in providing homework help, the committee still does not feel that this program fulfills the mentoring component. In light of the referendum, members questioned whether the district would use some of that money towards their schools homework helper programs. Also, now that the District has the funding, the committee feels that this would be an opportune time provide funding for other areas of need. Ultimately, the committee does not feel like this program supports their focus. They would like to see Whittier come up with some more innovative ideas and have a stronger focus on mentoring with some demonstration that they have a commitment through the high school to provide mentors.

- **Irving Slam:**

- Motion to fund at \$8,500.00 made by Marge T.
- Motion seconded by Carol Y.
- Motion passes unanimously

Rationale: The committee likes that this program has a more targeted focus in terms of finding participants. After reading through the revised contract request, they thought the responses were well thought out and felt it was a solid proposal and believe Irving has come a long way. The committee would like to note that they would like a clarification on what the term "growth mind set" means.

### **Julian Leadership Council & Brooks LAB**

- Motion to set aside \$15,000-\$20,000 to allocate for middle school support made by Marge T.
- Seconded by Carol Y.
- Motion passes unanimously

Rationale: The committee would like to set aside some money for middle school programs that would support mentoring and leadership development. Members would like to set a time to meet with program administrators from both of these programs to determine how best to distribute those funds.

### **Mann and Hatch**

- No motion to fund

Rationale: The committee members felt that these programs, like the Homework Helper group at Whittier, do not meet the committees focus. They would like the focus to be on mentoring and do not see that as a strong component in either program. Homework help groups have been a great model, but in regards to the committees priorities, there is no progression of innovative ideas being brought to these program designs.