

Oak Park & River Forest Township
Youth Services Committee
June Meeting Minutes
6/17/15

In Attendance: John W., Danielle F., Willie M., Ade O., Brennan S., George B., Keith B., Dick B., Pat B., Kim F., and Marge T.

Meeting called to order: 7:06PM.

Motion to accept minutes: George B, Dick 2nds, all in favor. Passes unanimously.

Spent time getting to know new members and go over the basics of the committee's purpose.

Liaison reports:

Oak Park: Ade Onayemi has been appointed as the new Youth Services Committee Liaison. The committee is sad to see Mary C. go, but appreciates all of her work in her time with the committee. The board held a meeting regarding the White Paper that the Community Mental Health Board had commissioned. Ade was not able to attend. The second board meeting this month is on June 30th, when the budget will get passed. Day in Our Village went well, even though the weather was not the best. Many people came and were surprised to hear about all the services the township offers, and it was helpful to be able to show people the differences between the township and the village.

River Forest: No Liaison present. However, John shared some information on the legislation to combine RTF and VRF has been taken off the table.

Director's Report:

Budget structure slightly changed for a few things this year, there was some consolidating of categories where line items go (down to 4 from 6). This should help streamline some of the billing information moving forward. However, the line items within those categories have just been shifted, rather than eliminated.

Our database is being reviewed by Lincoln Chandler to try and figure out Youth Services best option for capturing and storing data on clients as our current system is about 20 years old. He has come and worked with the database as well as having a group meeting with the staff, and one on one consultations with them to try and decipher what information is needed and in what areas the database could be improved. We hope to have some idea of what the next move is soon. However, it is likely we will need a new database, and a way to store the data from the old system.

The interventionists have been busy during graduation season (see team report for details on client graduations this year). They also have begun their site visits at the local parks for the summer. They have reported back that so far the parks are calm and there have been no serious issues since starting visits.

Stephen Jackson has been gearing up for mentorship this summer and at the time of this meeting was holding a parent-student meeting at seniors to get families acquainted with the program. The program has been growing and Stephen hopes to target younger people and stay with them longer to see even greater progress with the program.

John W. and family just returned from the Annual Conference for Rotary in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Later this month he will be officially sworn in as Rotary president.

New Business:

George B. would like to see some sort of programming or collaboration for rides for youth to be able to get to after school programming. This is a gap in services that he would like to see get filled. The committee spent some time talking about possibilities and this is a topic that will be revisited.

Dick B. presents the idea that 4 taxing bodies in the community do not participate in any of the township contracts or agreements, and wondered how that could be advantageous to some community needs if they were to get on board.

Marge T. spoke about contracts, and some of the logistics for the upcoming mentoring focused training sessions contractors are supposed to attend. As this is a new contract requirement, Marge was talking about possible ideas for these dates.

The committee also spent some time talking about the new hires in District 97, along with the new Superintendent. Marge T. suggested the committee send someone to meet her to welcome her to the community and establish a strong working relationship between the committee and leadership at district 97. This is something that will also be revisited once the new hires have settled in and are acclimated to the area.

Old Business:

Further discussion of contracts, the mentoring focused training and logistics surrounding those events. The committee wanted to discuss this further when more members were present.

Motion to adjourn: Pat B., Marge T. seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 9:16PM