

Oak Park Township Youth Services
Committee Meeting Minutes
May 6th 2015

Meeting Called to order at 6:55PM

In Attendance: John W., Danielle F., Marge T., Bob G., Jane H., Mary C., Dick B., Molly U., Amy H., and Carla S.

Liaison Reports:

Oak Park: The board will be passing a draft of the FY16 budget at the May 12th meeting. The budget does not get finalized until June. June 7th is Day in our Village, anyone is welcome to join in helping represent the township as there will be a booth and people giving out Township information.

The DHS grant to help fund underage drinking prevention programs in the community has been signed. NAMI is hosting a rally at the Thompson center on May 13th to help continued support of mental health funding and awareness. May is Celebrating Seniors month for Oak Park Township, so there are many specialized programs going on throughout the month to highlight that.

River Forest: Sib Shops (a support group for siblings of youth with mental health or developmental issues) has started with a slow build. Originally scheduled for Thursdays and Saturdays- but ultimately, just became Saturdays. The Township has disseminated a lot of information about it, so they are hoping in time it will gain momentum. The white paper commissioned by River Forest Township and the Community Mental Health Board has just been released to community stakeholders, and there will be a meeting on May 18th to discuss it. District 200 voted to hire Substance Abuse Counselors this year, as in prior years they were contracted through THRIVE. There are about 30 open positions at OPRFHS this year, lots of people retiring. May 27th there will be a local government meeting where all of the River Forest local government agencies are getting together.

Director's report:

A bill passed in the house which would not allow townships to raise their levy for a year. It still has to get push forward more, but poses potential risks to funding of townships.

The Township board has interviewed new members for the Youth Committee vacancies, they should be selected in time for next month's meeting.

John gave a FY16 youth services budget presentation to the board. There were minor changes made to the budget, but mostly categorization and organization related, no cuts or moving of funding.

The levy increase went through at 1.7%.

John met with the auditors and that went well also.

George B and John attended a poetry conference in Ohio, where John was able to do some networking regarding peace circles and rotary.

John's rotary installation is June 24th at the Carleton, he will be serving as rotary president.

August 29th is the Rotary rally at The Depot- entertainment, food, and fun for the family all are welcome.

Interventionists have been busy with clients, lots of crisis work.

The high school and THRIVE are ending their contractual relationship and the school will be hiring full time Substance Abuse Counselors. Many people in the special education department are retiring this

year, so there will be lots of changes at the high school. They have about 30 open positions this school year.

New Business: Marge went to the EXCELerated community night and really enjoyed the time she spent there. The all who attended were very excited about the work that was going on there. The kids did multimedia presentations on topics they had researched and did well and were very good. The Robotics camp is gearing up for the summer, but working to establish a date, and method of referral/selection.

Next month's meeting will be moved to June 17th, and the July meeting will be cancelled due to the holiday.

Meeting adjourned: 8:42PM