

Youth Services Committee  
Oak Park & River Forest Townships  
Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:55PM by committee chair, Marge T.

In attendance: John W., Danielle F., Ade O., Willie M., Tom B., Jane H., George B., Keith B., Molly U., Lynn H., Marge T., Carla S., Dick B., Bob G., and Brennan E.

Motion to accept June's meeting minutes Brennan, George seconds. Passes unanimously.  
(There were no July minutes as there was no meeting due to the fourth of July holiday, the August meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.)

Liaison Reports:

**River Forest:** The last RF Mental Health Committee meeting was successful. There are solid people on the committee with a wealth of knowledge, resources, and information- this has made many of the new initiatives go over well.

IMPACT is interviewing for a director, working on their 501(c)3 status, and forming a board.

The Success of all Youth coalition is taking off and doing well, becoming very organized.

The LemonAid charity event is coming up. There has been huge growth around this event, and has become much more popular over the years. The funds raised this year will go to NAMI and PACT. Great family event, and the community is strongly encouraged to stop by and check it out.

Sib shops (support groups for siblings of special needs youth) are starting up again. They have started to see growth and are excited for what this year has in store.

The Robotics camp held at Concordia this summer was a huge success with River Forest families, and they hope to see it grow this year.

River forest is also working to put together a program to address suicide in the community for support and resources. Doing research and trying to establish the best approach.

River Forest has hired a new Senior Outreach Coordinator who has been doing great work in the community.

**Oak Park:** The audit was completed and was successful. The township won an award for the 9<sup>th</sup> year for their work on that.

The board is collecting bids for a new HVAC system and roof for the 105 building. The roof has been in need of replacement for years, but is no longer in a place where minor fixes can keep it maintained.

Members of the board are working to get in touch with, and set a meeting with the new Superintendent for Oak Park, so far they have not had success, but will keep trying.

Other than that this summer has been rather quiet for the township.

**Director's Report:**

There were two gun incidences at Oak Park Park District Parks this summer. In both cases police were involved and no one was hurt. Police continue to patrol the parks as well as the interventionists making their rounds throughout the summer.

The Interventionists has a relatively quiet summer than they have had in past years.

John and the team have been working with Lincoln Chandler who is consulting on the database system

and trying to figure out the best way to preserve old data and switch over to a new system as the current database system is becoming outdated and unwieldy. However, a complete database rebuild or overhaul would most likely not happen in this budget cycle.

John worked with Rotary to organize the Rotary Rally in River Forest which, despite the rain on the day of the event, went well and raised a good deal of funds. It was a successful community event with good music, food, and entertainment for the whole family.

John has a Fenwick speaking engagement tomorrow (Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup>) for incoming freshman and their parents (about 325 families are expected). He has done for the previous six years and it is always a success.

Face-It has started up again for the year. There are 6-8 families enrolled, some finished up their session from before the break, and others are new families.

The TIME program is doing well. Susan is feeling better, and had a chance to get a good amount of youth set up with hours they needed to finish out their community service over the summer. Youth helped with a book sale at the library, the Rotary rally, and will help with the upcoming LemonAid event.

New Business:

The committee discussed their role as liaisons to contractors and the best way to provide oversight, support, and input on programming. This led to discussion about site visits and ways to be both helpful to contractors and have a better idea of how programs are working towards outlined goals in contracts.

Time was spent talking about the upcoming mentoring focused training sessions for contractors as well. Brainstorming ideas for how to run those sessions, who will attend, and topics to be covered.

The committee tabled these conversations but is considering the possibility of a retreat to focus on honing some of the areas of contracts and program development.

The budget was submitted and approved by the board.

FAS requests are starting to roll in again, keeping an eye on maintaining those throughout the year.

John suggested a committee dinner in December to celebrate the hard work of the committee over the past year.

Meeting called to order at 8:56PM.