

OAK PARK TOWNSHIP SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Senior Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 and called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Present Oak Park Committee: Dr. Marcia Finlayson; Warren Lowe; Christopher Fox; Shirley Esenther; Eric Davis, Liaison.

Absent Oak Park Committee: Dr. Kenneth Blair; Doris Gruskin.

Present River Forest Committee: Dr. Donald Pochyly; Diana Berg; James Flanagan; Mary Therese Small .

Absent River Forest Committee: Mary Bozzi; Peggi Mizen.

Also Present: Veronica Krawczyk, River Forest Township Supervisor; Ange Davis, River Forest Township Liaison; Desiree Scully, Director for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships; Pamela Mahn, Administrative Associate for Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships.

Also Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the January 17, 2007 meeting. Dr. Pochyly motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Diana Berg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Financial reports for the month of April 2007 were reviewed and discussed. April is the first month of the fiscal year, which means that expenditures should be at 8.33%. Overall, year-to-date expenditures are at 7.3%. Director Scully noted that the Committee should be prepared to see increased gasoline prices reflected in both the Transportation and Home Delivered Meals budgets throughout the fiscal year.

May 16, 2007

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Eric Davis reported the following:

- The Town Board is completing the budget process and beginning the Township levy cycle.
- Both Youth Services and Senior Services Departments have presented their respective budgets to the Board.
- There has been no progress on the issue of a site for the Senior Services facility. Town Hall is currently undergoing renovation.
- Oak Park Township has seen a significant increase in request for the General Assistance program. As a result, the Town Board has shifted monies from the General Town Fund to the General Assistance Fund.
- Oak Park Township has received the GFOA for the second year in a row.
- Trustee Davis asked the Oak Park Committee if there are any questions or issues that they would like to be brought to the Town Board. There were none.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Supervisor Krawczyk reported the following:

- The updated mental health resource directories have been sent out. Please let Veronica know if you have not received a copy and she will get one for you.
- “What Does Your Township Do For You?” directories have been updated. The directories were mailed out to all residents in the Oak Park area. River Forest chose to mail them out to residents every other year.
- The budget process is winding down. The final budget will tentatively be adopted in June. The budget has tightened this year and this trend will continue in coming years to put money aside for necessary building maintenance.
- As a cost saving measure the Township will be looking to shift from flat grant awards for service provision to River Forest residents toward a direct purchase of care model where the Township will only be paying for the services that are being utilized.
- There is a vacant position for the River Forest Senior Committee and two vacant positions for the River Forest Mental Health Committee. The Senior Committee meets quarterly while the Mental Health Committee meets six times per year along with 10-12 additional hours per year for site evaluations and contract hearings. Please let Veronica know if you know of any River Forest residents who may be interested in applying for either Committee.

May 16, 2007

- Supervisor Krawczyk asked the River Forest Committee if there are any questions or issues that they would like to be brought to the Town Board. There were none.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's report and Program Area Reports were included in the Committee packets mailed to members. The Committee discussed the reports and Director Scully reported the following additional information:

~Director Scully has been working with the Village of Oak Park and Holley Court regarding pedestrian safety. The pedestrian safety group met in March and April and there will be a public forum held in May. Director Scully distributed notes from the meetings to the Senior Committee. The pedestrian safety committee is focusing on an educational emphasis which will include educating students who are in driver's education, and make sure that people need to be responsible on the roads while being a pedestrian, driver, and or bicyclist.

~The State of Illinois is focusing on increased elder abuse awareness. Beginning January 1, 2007, self-neglect was deemed elder abuse under the state definitions. However, there has been no money attached to fund the additional cases in the program. Currently, the cases are screened through elder abuse and referred on to the case management program. Tentatively, there will be funds assigned to the Elder Abuse program for these cases beginning January 1, 2008. There will be a focus this year on going out to local banks to establish relationships with them in order to expedite the process for investigation of financial exploitation. Chairperson Fox asked for definitions regarding self-neglect. Director Scully stated that

~It has been an extremely busy year for legislation on senior services. A summary follows of current bills pending:

~Oak Park Township is opposing House Bill 734 which states that Elder Abuse investigation agencies would have to take Elder Abuse referrals 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Oak Park Township supports the amended version of the bill (Senate Bill 340), which states that if there is a memo of understanding stating that the local police department is first to respond and that they will refer to the local family services agency after hours.

~Oak Park Township supports Senate Bill 591 which states that CCU's should be compensated for completing the CCC tool which was implemented April 1, 2007 and has significantly increased the workload for case managers.

~The above house and senate bills are a direct result of Senate Bill 2880 which was passed several years ago. Initially, there was discussion regarding a single point of entry to the senior services in the state for everyone regardless of where you live. In recent months, it has been determined that there should be several different points of entry throughout the state.

~There are currently eight clients participating in the new emergency home response program implemented through IDOA.

May 16, 2007

FALLS PREVENTION SUB-COMMITTEE

Pauline has given her presentation to the NCOA. The falls prevention sub-committee has taken this project as far as they can and the Senior Committee will follow up with Dr. Blair his statement to find someone who might be interested in continuing the work of the falls prevention initiative.

RIVER FOREST DINE OUT SUB-COMMITTEE

Sandra Pastore has been in contact with Pompei and has e-mailed information on the Dine Out program to the restaurant. They will evaluate the information and get in contact with us.

Some River Forest residents had asked about approaching TGIF, however the restaurant is located in Oak Park and Director Scully is really trying to focus on a River Forest location.

Mary Therese Small suggested contacting the Pompei corporate office.

Director Scully suggested that the River Forest Dine Out Sub-Committee meet for lunch next month and look in to the option for them participating in the program.

The Committee discussed the options for restaurants especially with the potential for the Original Pancake house closing. Director Scully stated that they program will go out for bid if necessary to get additional restaurant participation.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Krawczyk reported that the housing expo went very well at the River Forest Community Center. The response to the event was very good and they had good feedback from the participants. Presenters included representatives from the tax assessor's offices from both Oak Park and River Forest, financial institutions presented information on reverse mortgages, several of the local housing facilities were present, contractor who were skilled in home modifications were there and other contractors who were available for other types of household repairs. Pat Koko had requested information from the Tax Assessor's offices in Oak Park and River Forest to do direct mailings on the Senior Housing Expo in the future. Jim Flanagan offered his information and services to Supervisor Krawczyk as well.

The Secretary of State was at the River Forest Community Center to do the Super Senior event to renew driver's licenses, and conduct eye screenings. There were over 150 participants.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Senior Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

Mary Therese Small motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Shirley Esenther seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.