

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, October 18, 2006 and called to order at 7:11 p.m.

Present Oak Park Committee: Doris Gruskin; Dr. Kenneth Blair; Dr. Marcia Finlayson; Warren Lowe; Shirley Esenther; Eric Davis, Liaison.

Absent Oak Park Committee: Ben Nieburger; Christopher Fox.

Present River Forest Committee: Peggi Mizen; James Flanagan.

Absent River Forest Committee: Georg Ann Zussman; Dr. Donald Pochyly; Diana Berg; Mary Therese Small; Mary Bozzi.

Also Present: Veronica Krawczyk, River Forest Township Supervisor; 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: Ange Davis, River Forest Township Liaison.

INTRODUCTIONS

Director Scully welcomed the new River Forest committee member James Flanagan and introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the June 21, 2006 meeting, but was unable to approve them due to the lack of a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Financial reports for the month of September 2006 were reviewed and discussed. September is the sixth month of the fiscal year, which means that expenditures should be at 50%. Overall, year-to-date expenditures are at 48.6%.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Eric Davis stated that the Town Board has met twice since the last Senior Committee meeting and reported the following:

- Mary Cozzens has been appointed as the new Trustee on the Oak Park Township Board. Mary formerly held the position of Collector for Oak Park Township. The Town Board will need to appoint a new Collector and is currently taking applications.

The Collector is assigned to act as a liaison to the Town Board. They participate in discussion during

October 18, 2006

Board meetings, but are non-voting participants. Further information regarding the position is available on the website. Eligible candidates must live in Oak Park and attend two meetings per month.

- Trustee Davis reported that the Board policy for the Oak Park and River Forest Advisory Committees and Community Mental Health Boards has been approved and the purpose of the senior committee was articulated in the policy based on the script developed by the committee at the planning session. Copies of the policy were distributed to the committee.
- The volunteer recognition event will be held on Sunday, October 29, 2006.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

River Forest Township Supervisor, Veronica Krawczyk reported the following:

- Supervisory Krawczyk has presented the levy to the Board for their review. The levy is approximately \$467,167 for 2006. That's an increase of 3.2% over last year, which is approximately \$20,000. The next meeting will be the levy appropriation and public hearing. The levy must be approved and accepted at the first meeting in December.
- Flu shots will be available through Maxim Healthcare at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison St. on Tuesday, October 24, 2006. The flu shots will be available to residents of any community. Medicare/Medicaid cards will be accepted. Flu shots are available for \$25, pneumonia shots are available for \$40.
- The 2007 Housing Expo will be held on March 29, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the River Forest Community Center. The expo will be expanded this year to realtors and contractors to assist seniors who may need to sell their homes or conduct home modification. The River Forest Community Center is hosting the expo and the Senior Citizens' Center of Oak Park and River Forest is responsible for the organization, planning and production of the event.

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:

~Senior Services submitted an application for a Community Development Block Grant through the Village of Oak Park to receive funding for renovations to their offices at the Oak Park Arms. The application has been denied.

~Supervisor Boulanger and the Park District Site Committee met to see if and/or where Senior Services might fit into the plan for Longfellow park. It was determined that the Longfellow Park site is very committed to the children and families in the area and is not conducive for a Senior Center site. One alternative is being considered to include the possibility of a senior center in the upcoming plan for renovation of the Mills Park site. In addition, some residents have questioned why the YMCA has not been considered for a Senior Center site.

~The Oak Park Arms and Oak Park Township have renegotiated the lease for the Senior Services space for an additional two years. Oak Park Township has committed \$7,000 as part of the lease re-negotiation to provide painting and carpeting for the Senior Services offices. The Oak Park Arms will pay the balance of the

October 18, 2006

expenses for these costs.

~The Senior Services phone and voicemail system is currently fourteen years old. The Township is in the process of gathering information regarding replacement phone and voicemail systems for all Township offices.

~The LIHEAP program began taking applications on September 1, 2006. The program is open to income eligible applicants who are over sixty, disabled or whose service has been disconnected. CEDA administers the LIHEAP program and has developed new rules and regulations regarding the process to be used to take applicants at the senior buildings. In the past an authorization for signature form could be signed and submitted by the client and Senior Services could complete the application on the clients' behalf without an original client signature to complete the application. This year, however, all documentation must be compiled with the application and the client must sign the application in person. This new process will be more time intensive for the staff and volunteers of the program.

~The Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) conference will be held November 12 – November 15, 2006 in Peoria, IL. As president of the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizen Service Committees (ITASCSC) Director Scully will be attending the TOI conference to represent ITASCSC and Senior Services of Oak Park and River Forest Townships. ITASCSC will be hosting three speakers on the following sessions

- Emergency Preparedness and the Avian Flu
- Medicare Part D – Where are we now?
- Townships Offering Better & More Cost Effective Insurance for their Employees & Planning for Retirement

FALLS PREVENTION SUB-COMMITTEE

Pauline Koch is retiring in December 2006. Pauline Koch will present information regarding the actualization of the National Falls Free Action Plan as implemented based on our experience implementing it in Oak Park and River Forest at the March 2007 conference of the American Society on Aging. Jennifer Garcia continues working on the survey for businesses in the community.

RIVER FOREST DINE OUT SUB-COMMITTEE

Pompei is willing to look at the possibility of implementing the Dine Out Program in 2007. Grandma Sally's has continued to be non-responsive. Supervisor Krawczyk has given approval for the Dine Out Sub-Committee to approach Jim & Pete's regarding participation in the program.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Senior Committee Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2006 at Cucina Paradiso. Invitations will be mailed.

Senate Bill 2880 Long Term Care Reform Update ~ IDOA has approved payment for emergency home response services through the Community Care Program package effective October 15, 2006. Approved providers are American Medical Alert, Lifeline, HealthCom and Health Watch.

The Coordinated Point of Entry sub-committee will be reporting to the Governor in about a week. Director Scully and Case Management Supervisor Shawn Lewis attend meetings for the sub-committee to ensure that

October 18, 2006

the current systems remain in place and that any existing gaps in service are filled.

~Develop Coordinated Points of Entry, 50 throughout the state using current CCU's and Agencies on Aging.

~Implement the use of the Comprehensive Assessment Tool. Partial implementation was effective October 1, 2006 in certain areas and other areas will be added gradually. Area 13 (our service area) will be implemented last.

~Identify a state logo for the aging network.

~Develop access points for services including municipal buildings, retail establishments, public locations, and senior centers.

Director Scully is meeting with Georgeen Polyak from the Village of Oak Park Health Department on Friday regarding addressing pedestrian crosswalks and the length of the street lights and crossing signals.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Senior Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

The unofficial meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m. There was no motion for adjournment due to the lack of a quorum.