

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, September 19, 2007 and called to order at 7:08 p.m.

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

Absent Oak Park Committee: Warren Lowe; Anna Cotto.

Present River Forest Committee: Mary Bozzi; Peggi Mizen; Diana Berg; James Flanagan; Georg Ann Zussman.

Absent River Forest Committee: Dr. Donald Pochyly; Mary Therese Small.

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 May 16, 2007 meeting. Peggi Mizen motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Finlayson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Financial reports for the month of August 2007 were reviewed and discussed. August is the fifth month of the fiscal year, which means that expenditures should be at 41.67%. Overall, year-to-date expenditures are at 40.2%. The committee discussed various revenue and expenditure lines. Director Scully noted that there have been recent grant awards for the Case Management, Red Tape Cutter and Elder Abuse Programs where One Time Funding was given and needed to be spent by July 31st. As a result, there may be various expenditure lines within the Case Management and Red Tape Cutter budgets that are overspent, but these costs are directly offset by the additional revenue received. There was specific direction provided by the state for the appropriate spending of these funds.

OPT LIAISON'S REPORT

Trustee Eric Davis reported the following:

- Renovations to the Town Hall have been completed.
- Youth Services is restructuring their grant review process.
- The volunteer recognition event is being held this year at the Brookfield Zoo on October 21, 2007. Please respond to Mitzi regarding whether or not you will be attending the event.
- The General Assistance program requests have leveled off. As a result, the Town Board has shifted monies from the General Town Fund to the General Assistance Fund.
- Discussions have continued regarding the formalization of the relationship between Oak Park Township Board and the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park. There is a meeting scheduled for both entities to meet with the state association of mental health boards for clarification on the relationship.
- The governor has signed house bill 1670 which changes a portion of the definition of the Open Meetings Act. The change states that “In the case of a five member board, the definition of a meeting is a quorum, not a majority of a quorum”.
- A group called Housing Oak Park has come forth and is attempting to market support for a more comprehensive approach to low-income and subsidized housing. This is partially related to the loss of the YMCA. The Township has been involved with a group that is looking to see if there is a way to redevelop the YMCA as a place that would maintain low income housing. Trustee Davis recommended to the Town Board that they join the ad hoc group, endorse the mission of the group, and explore what the implications of membership would be with the position that the Township has a role to play specifically in support of housing options for some of the populations we serve through youth, general assistance and senior services to provide and maintain a diversity of housing options for them.
- Trustee Davis asked if the committee has any questions or information for him to bring back to the Town Board.

RFT LIAISON'S REPORT

Supervisor Krawczyk reported the following:

- The annual audit has been completed. The annual treasury report is also complete and will be posted in the local newspaper and filed downtown.
- On October 24, 2007 there will be flu shots provided for \$30.00 and pneumonia shots provided for \$40.00 at the River Forest Community Center from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The clinic will be open to all Oak Park and River Forest residents and Medicare Part D will be accepted. The committee discussed that the standard procedure is for people over 65 to get a pneumonia shot once only except for those who have a serious underlying illness, who should get a booster shot every five years thereafter rather than annually. Veronica will confirm this information with Maxim Healthcare who will be providing the shots.

September 19, 2007

- The River Forest Township newsletter will be coming out as an insert in the Village of River Forest newsletter on October 1, 2007.
- The Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program is in full swing. They have already started their meetings and trainings for the referral sources. Residents referred for the program receive a gift certificate for food at Thanksgiving time. At Christmas time, the residents referred will receive a gift certificate for food in addition to gifts as described on the referral form. Anyone interested in volunteering to deliver gifts, adopt a family, or help in any other way you should contact the program hotline at (708) 771-6159 x 244 and they will get back to you. Donations are always accepted.
- River Forest Township is not participating this year in the volunteer recognition event due to lack of attendance in the past. The Senior Committee will be welcome to participate in the holiday party.
- Property tax bills are not out because the Governor has not yet signed the budget. They could be issued as late as January. October 11 is the last day to submit appeals for 2006 tax bills to the River Forest tax assessor all 2006 appeals submitted after that date must be submitted directly to Maybrook Courthouse by October 15th.

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:

~Senior Services distributed over 800 Farmer's Market Coupons to seniors who live in Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding areas. All coupons were distributed within two weeks. All participants had to be 60 or over, at 185% of the poverty level and complete a demographic form. All information was self-declared and no participants were denied coupons if they stated they meet the criteria.

- ~The Nineteenth Century Club provided a \$500.00 donation to the Home Delivered Meal program. The funds will be used to purchase shelf-stable meals for the clients to store in their homes in the event that an emergency closing, vehicle difficulty or severe weather prevents their meal from being delivered. The Committee discussed the benefit of such donations and that donations are accepted from individuals in the community.
- ~Sandra Pastore resigned from her position as Lunch Program Manager after the birth of her second child and recent relocation out of the local area. Celeste Duignan has been hired to fill the Lunch Program Manager position and she started last Monday.
- ~The Committee discussed the case loads for the Case Management team and the increased amount of time needed to complete the comprehensive assessment tool. Director Scully stated that an additional full time case manager has been hired and the state has implemented the use of laptops for completion of the forms which should make the process more efficient than it is during this initial implementation phase. There will be careful monitoring of the time requirements necessary to complete the required paperwork while providing the most effective and appropriate care.

RIVER FOREST DINE OUT SUB-COMMITTEE

The bid process was initiated over the summer, a legal notice was published in the local paper and there were packets mailed to approximately fifty restaurants in Oak Park and River Forest. The Maple Tree Restaurant and Robinson's were the only two restaurants to respond to the bid and return completed bid packets. They have been reviewed and approved by Age Options and the menus have been approved by their dietitian. Despite the fact that there is no current restaurant participating in River Forest, all River Forest residents are still utilizing the program at the restaurants in Oak Park. Sample menus were distributed for the Committee review.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the last meeting, Chairperson Fox had requested that Director Scully provide the definition of self-neglect to the committee following their discussion of the change in the laws at the last meeting. The definition was distributed to the Committee and discussed.

Now that the two recent sub-committees have finished their business, Trustee Davis asked Director Scully and the Committee as a whole to think about whether there is a different task or a question that the committee would like to work on and to please bring any ideas to the December meeting. Director Scully stated that the Comprehensive Assessment implementation, Conflict of Interest and Coordinated Point of Entry discussions and subsequent committees are consuming her time at this point, so she will leave any suggestions for further questions or work to accomplish up to the Committee.

Dr. Finlayson stated that there will be students working this semester who will take the work completed on the Falls Free Initiative and they will conduct an evaluation of the Dine Out sites and develop an informational pamphlet on falls prevention to be distributed to local businesses.

James Flanagan stated that he is working on the list regarding names for the senior housing expo to give to Supervisor Krawczyk as discussed at the last meeting. He will forward the information to her directly.

NEXT MEETING

Peggi Mizen motioned for the next meeting of the Senior Committee to be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at a location to be determined. Diana Berg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Georg Ann Zussman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Chairperson Fox seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.