

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:02PM. This was a meeting held both in person and electronically by Zoom.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees: Deana Herrman, Keith Strom, and Karen Taubman. Also present: Clerk Vanessa Druckman, Assessor Pam Kende, Mental Health Services Administrator Sarah Schwarting, and Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly.

Excused Absent: Trustee Connolly and RFCC executive director Dick Chappell.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation: None.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Herrman to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 regular meeting. Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Strom, Taubman, and Herrman. Nays: none. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Assessor Kende is gearing up for the tri-annual reassessment in which all PINs in River Forest will be given a new market value by the Cook County Assessor.
- Assessor Kende is creating a look and feel for information that will be sent out on Constant Contact.
- Assessor Kende sent permits to Cook County.
- Assessor Kende processed Senior and Homeowners certificates of exemption.
- Assessor Kende answered questions regarding when tax bills will be sent (unknown).
- Assessor Kende attended the Cook County Township Assessor Association meeting. updated the webpages with press releases and information regarding tax bills.

Mental Health Services

Sarah Schwarting

- Sarah reported that OPRF high school Parent University will be a virtual webinar from 6:30-9:15 PM on Thursday.

- Sarah has been working on holiday e-greeting cards through Canva that she will send to all agencies some time next week.
- Sarah said that some committee members have requested a reading list. She will have several book suggestions to them by or before the end of the month
- Sarah reported that HUB trainings have wrapped up and all agencies have claimed their programs. Supervisor Sloan added that a meeting to discuss the future of the HUB is scheduled for November 18.
- Sarah followed up with a few agencies that still needed to submit annual reports, and now all have been submitted.
- Sarah is working on entertainment for Overdose Awareness Day and will likely continue through the winter. She is concurrently trying to plan for 2023 and 2024.
- Sarah reported that Q2 checks will be mailed prior to Thanksgiving.
- Sarah said that FY23 funding applications will be emailed to all agencies by the end of this week.
- Sarah reported that Betsy presented part of her conference presentation on homesharing to the Mental Health Committee and committee members were both interested and supportive.
- Sarah followed through on some research that she read about in the Chicago Tribune and the CDC now recommends children to be screened for major depressive disorder starting at age 11 and anxiety starting at age 8.
- Sarah attended a River Forest village safety meeting on Oct 26th where the Way Back Inn and Sarah's Inn both gave presentations.
- Sarah reported that Dr. Jessica Starck has interviewed for the open committee position. She is a very accomplished pediatrician, a D90 mom to 3 boys and is an enthusiastic prospective member. Trustees will vote on her joining the mental health committee later this meeting.
- Supervisor Sloan and Sarah attended the Housing Forward 30 years celebration at Pleasant Home and heard about their plans to keep moving forward with new housing initiatives.
- Sarah reported that the River Forest Township will be starting a new project of putting together resource guides and mailing them to all River Forest residents.
- Sarah said that Mental Health Committee member Melinda Peterson volunteered at the Prescription Take back day on Oct 29th.

- Trustee Hermann asked when they could see a final copy of the IPlan. Supervisor Sloan and Sarah to follow up.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that Sibshops began again with their new schedule on 10/22. 6 or 7 sessions are scheduled every Saturday until the holidays.
- Supervisor Sloan reported on PYD activities – Red Ribbon Week was held throughout the community, and we had the red ribbons here at the RFCC.
- Supervisor Sloan shared that Strengthening Families is a 10-12 week class for the entire family, focusing on communication and how to have a better family life. 5 families are enrolled in the virtual class, 1 of which is from River Forest. This program is run by Ascension Healthcare, formerly Amita, formerly Presence.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that LOSS, the support group run by Catholic Charities for those who lost loved ones to suicide, will resume meeting in-person here at the Township on the third Mondays, starting November 21.

General Assistance

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan said that we still have two clients.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that the 3 Holiday Food and Gift Basket referral clients will be picking up their Thanksgiving gift cards here on Nov 16. April Dugal will distribute cards to our current GA clients.
- Supervisor Sloan stated that the new Holiday Food and Gift Basket team is up and running in our office space, and our staff reports that things are going smoothly.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy reported that Lydia Manning and Ruth Reko spoke about Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly River Forest at the last Coffee Monday. It was attended by 4-5 people besides the speakers and Brian and Betsy. Lydia Manning offered to come back after the new year to tell us about Age Friendly Commissions survey results.
- Betsy is preparing for her Townships of Illinois talk about homesharing. She spoke to Sarah's Mental Health Commission who offered suggestions for her slides. Betsy will head to Springfield with Ruth Reko on November 13th for the Conference on the 14th.
- Betsy reported that mahjong is still going strong with instructor Liz Ziehl. We have 2-3 tables of beginners and experienced players coming as well.
- Betsy will do a final look over of homesharing forms with Supervisor Sloan tomorrow morning. She will then share them with two non-profit lawyers she knows for a pro-bono

review and will do a final review with River Forest Township lawyer Pat Deady. We need to decide on a background check agency.

- Supervisor Sloan and Betsy plan to meet with Vanessa Druckman to discuss a mailing we will do in the new year to spread information about homesharing, our services and to publicize River Forest email and Community Connect.
- Betsy announced that there is a viewing organized by Age Options on November 9th of “All the Lonely People” at Lake Theater.
- Betsy met with Briselda and Carolyn Foster, our two newer RF Senior Services Committee Members. Both really want to be involved and are interested in working with all the libraries, and intergenerational programming. They are also interested in helping Betsy get the word out about homesharing and making connections with Age Friendly River Forest. They are also starting to think about Seniors to nominate for Celebrating Seniors Week.
- Betsy met with Vanessa to work on Senior Pages for the website. She is waiting on some generic flyers from Fran from the River Forest Library for Memory Cafe, Film Lover Fridays, Adult Coloring, and Coffee Monday.
- Betsy continues to send out Community Connect Mail, River Forest Seniors email and distribute meals on Tuesdays.
- Betsy will work with Laura Valcour and Jessica at Oak Park Township in 2023 to do a registration/demonstration with Silver Sneakers.
- Betsy reported that pickleball is starting in December in collaboration with the River Forest Park District. Supervisor Sloan added that the effort is spearheaded by River Forest resident Kelly Frank and there will be two sessions for seniors, Tuesday mornings at 8 and Thursdays at 1 pm.
- Betsy said that at the Oak Park Township Meeting they talked about having an efficiency committee at each township.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that Senior Pathways, which owns and runs the Sheridan, owes the River Forest Township \$5000 as a senior impact fee, which was negotiated on our behalf by the Village. She added that this is a yearly fee and discussion ensued about how to do something thoughtful with these funds, perhaps put some toward the home sharing program costs like attorney fees and background checks.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that the Oak Park Fire Dept and paramedics have committed to doing ICE Packets in Oak Park. We have been hoping for this for a long time, as we have had them in River Forest but not Oak Park.

Youth and Family Services

Carla Sloan and Trustee Herrman

- Trustee Herrman reported that youth and family services committee applications are going out on 11/18. The committee has revised the target age of children receiving support to 0-18.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that Girls on the Rise continues as an after-school program at Roosevelt for girls of color. 16 are attending. Willard is also interested in starting a Girls on the Rise group for 3rd and 4th graders.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that there are many new social workers at D90, so Youth Services and Supervisor Sloan have been invited to meet with Debbie Lubeck and the D90 social workers on November 29, to inform them about Girls on the Rise, Youth Engagement Program and other Township youth and mental health programs. If Girls on the Rise starts at Willard, D90 is interested in also starting the program at Lincoln Elementary.
- Supervisor Sloan said the Youth Engagement Program numbers show that 1/3 of the clients are from River Forest: 10/33. This is the highest percentage she has seen, typically it's 20-25%.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that River Forest resident Linda Conway has retired from many dedicated years of running the ISearch program. Oak Park resident Kim Wojack is currently running the program by herself. Youth Services Committee members and Trustee Herrman are planning ISearch site visits, as they were not able to observe last year. Supervisor Sloan has informed ISearch about contractor night on January 4, and they are planning to attend.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan announced that our operating account was depleted due to delayed property tax revenue. She moved \$100,000 from our money market account to cover the deficit.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that Dominique Hickman who started Girls on the Rise will get an award.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the NAMI annual meeting where D90 superintendent Ed Condon was the keynote speaker.
- Supervisor Sloan and Sarah Schwarting attended the Housing Forward anniversary celebration.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that the River Forest administrators meetings will begin again in January.
- Supervisor Sloan said that senior volunteer Pat Koko is receiving the Volunteer of the Year award from ITASCSC, the state senior organization.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve River Forest Township Operating Fund bills as of November 30, 2022 in the amount of \$52,166.99.

Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Herrman, Strom, Taubman, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Vanessa Druckman provided an update of the website redesign. She stated that the website build continues and the current push is on creating the Senior Services pages. She provided feedback to Hutchinson Associates about newsletter registration buttons throughout the site and about the senior secondary pages design. She is creating a photo repository with a different photo designated for each page of the website and is about 60% complete. Hutch is adding the photos to the website page by page. She submitted copy for the Mental Health Secondary Pages to Hutchinson Associates. Hutchinson Associates has created pages in the about us section but copy has not yet been added.
- Trustee Taubman said the Collaboration Sub-Committee changed its meeting date and she was not able to attend. Sarah Schwarting offered to act as an alternate for future conflicts.
- Supervisor Sloan has no update on the new vision statement.

New Business

- Trustee Strom made a motion to approve Dr. Jessica Starck as a new member of the Mental Health Services Committee. Trustee Taubman seconded the motion.

Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Strom, Herrman, and Taubman. Nays: none. The resolution was approved unanimously.

- Supervisor Sloan shared the proposed levy increases of other Oak Park and River Forest organizations. Discussion ensued. Trustee Strom stated that he would prefer to increase our levy by 4.5% rather than 4.9% and all agreed. Formal vote to take place at December meeting.

Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 6 pm.

A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Strom to adjourn the meeting at 7:21pm. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk