

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 6:00 pm

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place at 6:07 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, trustees Mark Kelty, Helene Connolly, and Holly Economos. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell, Mental Health Services/General Assistance Administrator, Avis Rudner, and Senior Outreach Coordinator, Cathaleen Roach, Township Attorney, Pat Deady. Trustee Karen Taubman was absent.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve the minutes of the January, 15, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation – none

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Answered phone calls regarding what the first installment tax bill will be (55% of last year's tax bill).
- Helped taxpayers pay their tax bills online.
- We are busy helping seniors with their exemption forms.
- Fielded calls regarding Cook County Appeal period. We are currently scheduled to open on February 6th for appeals with the Cook County Assessor. The appeal period will be open for 30 days. We are fielding calls and creating packets for residents. Fielded questions regarding what the Board of Review reduction means and how it will affect residents' tax bills, and when it takes effect (2nd installment 2019).
- Submitted annual budget.
- Added events to the calendar.
- Sent out press releases to newspaper/Village e-newsletter and Township website regarding exemptions and Cook County Assessor appeal period.
- Attended Cook County Township Assessor's Association meeting. Working with the Cook County Treasurer, mailed notices to all the delinquent tax properties in River Forest. Tracking and reporting 'bad' addresses from the Cook County Treasurer's system.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- The Mental Health Committee is in the middle of its liaison visits and in March will be considering their recommendations to the Trustees for next year's mental health budget.
- Carla and Avis attended the Behavioral Health Consortium breakfast held on January 24. There were excellent presentations from about 25 agencies in attendance and hear about their services. This program is sponsored by the Township.
- The second training session for the HUB software was held. There is a meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, to develop marketing strategies to encourage the agencies to use the HUB to make referrals.
- Strengthening Families will be meeting here starting tonight. The Strengthening Families Program put on through Amita is a holistic approach to parenting. They are offering a 12- week program for the entire family on parenting skills, healthy communication, resolving conflicts, stress management skills and setting limits.
- Sibshops are starting up again this week and there has been a strong response for this session. There are twelve kids registered which equates to about ten attending each session. This is up from the fall, but there is still room for a couple more. We are doing an assessment, pre-and post-questionnaire of parents, to try and get some sense of whether the Sibshops have made a difference in the kids' lives.
- The first of two excellent presentations were held at Oak Park River Forest High School in conjunction with the Oak Park Community Health Board for parents of children with disabilities. Cathaleen attended. The information is extremely valuable and essential for parents, but very difficult topics. Consultant Sherry Schneider's presentation was on SSI, Medicaid, etc. The next one on March 6 will be on Attorney Guardianship and Navigating the PUNS list.
- In November, in a collaboration with the River Forest paramedics, we made fifty packets for the homeless whom the police and paramedics encounter in River Forest. We donated socks, Chapstick, cough drops, tissues and hand warmers. The Fire Department added other items, assembled the packets and shared them with the police. They distributed all of the packets and asked us to make another round, which we did. The police and fire are very grateful for our contributions and participation in this program.
- Officer Glen Czernik has been the community outreach officer in River Forest for the past three years or so. He has done an excellent job doing outreach with our school kids and also with our seniors. He has also been a strong participant in PYD (Positive Youth Development) and on the suicide and opioid task forces. Glen has been promoted to sergeant and has been replaced by Ben Ransom, whom Carla has the opportunity to speak with and thinks he will do an excellent job.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla has been asked to participate in the interviewing process for the Youth Services Director position. A number of qualified candidates have been interviewed, the last of whom is being interviewed this evening. We expect to make a decision by the end of the month
- Carla attended the Youth Services Committee meeting which focused on jprogram funding for FY2020. There was a good discussion a month committee members including plans to fund some new programs on the Oak Park side and possibly on the River Forest side as well. Carla will have recommendations at our March meeting.
- Positive Youth Development (PYD) and IMPACT continue to jointly plan the parent forum on April 25 which will address binge drinking and/or marijuana/vaping/dabbing. The forum will also feature the “hidden in plain sight” model bedroom.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Cathaleen commented that we are in full programming mode for Celebrating Seniors Week, May 2-9, 2019, the tri-suburb effort with Oak Park and Forest Park sponsoring free programming and other events celebrating seniors. Typically, we work on two parts: 60 OVER 60 – Our nomination period is closed now. River Forest Township and River Forest Library together have nominated approximately 20 local citizens (mostly, but not exclusively from River Forest) to be honored this year. We are now conducting interviews and photo taking sessions to get all copy and photos into press by March 15 for the annual booklet, which gets distributed by the Wednesday Journal and others.
- We are gearing up for the 9th Celebrating Seniors Week from May 2-9, 2019, the tri-suburb effort with Oak Park and Forest Park sponsoring free programming and other events celebrating seniors. Typically we work on two parts:
 - 1) “60 Over 60” nominations for honored seniors. For programming we usually host four to five panel presentations here at the RFCC. We are also looking for River Forest seniors to nior programming, including the **Memory Café**, which will launch on Tuesday, January 22. nominate for our allocated percentage of “60 over 60” awardees. Nominees get their photo and brief bio in the CSW resource guide and a recognition dinner at Concordia University in May.
 - 2) CSW Programming. We have set dates and panels for five programs to be hosted here during the week including topics on Senior Exercise—Inspiration and Perspiration; Legal Questions for Later Life; Mindfulness and Meditation; Downsizing and Decluttering; and Genealogy as a Family Project.

- Celebrating Seniors All Year Long programming includes Coffee Monday with Seniors Managing the Move by Abby Schmelling and a Caring Transitions representative; and with our partnership with the library programming, WWII Real Life Code Breakers (33 attended) and 50's Music.
- Cathaleen is getting out our monthly email to approximately recipients; and will be submitting our quarterly news for the News & Views for the spring release. She also will be attending tomorrow night's Senior Committee Meeting at Oak Park Township Senior Services.
- There has been a large increase in LOSS attendance with fourteen attendees in January, more than 100% increase from our average attendance.
- The Senior Committee had their annual holiday dinner meeting. There is a meeting tomorrow and Cathaleen will be attending for us.
- Dementia Friendly River Forest's January meeting was cancelled due to the cold but will be held on this coming Monday. Cathaleen will be attending for us.
- Memory Café has started at the Senior Services building in Oak Park for people with dementia and their care partners. The kickoff was in January which Cathaleen attended. Cathaleen gave a review of the kickoff.
- The Poetry event was on Valentine's Day which was also attended by Cathaleen.
- Pickleball for seniors continues which a steady crowd of 8-10 people. It is now also in Forest Park Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 am.
- Carla thanked Cathaleen for all her hard work on Celebrating Seniors Week and the 60 over 60 awards.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Carla talked about the Collaboration sub-committee which she attended since Helene was out of town. Everyone is excited about the new Community Calendar at www.rfhappenings.com which is up and running. We discussed marketing ideas for how to encourage residents to use the new site. The sub-committee is looking for the next great idea for the joint taxing bodies and asked for input from the Trustees.
- During the big freeze, the RFCCA building was open as a warming center from 8am to 8pm which is the commitment we have made as part of the Cook County network. This was the only building open as such in River Forest. We had food and beverage ready for guests. Carla gave thanks to Tom Ames who manned the front door and shared the warming center with her. And she also thanked Dick for supporting this endeavor. There were only two guests the first day and one of them returned the second day, but it was important that the building was open.

- Carla attended the Administrators meeting. She mentioned the ticketing at two hour parking sites, the delay of the library construction project due to high bids, and District #90's safety routes to schools with more stop signs and cross walks.

Approval of Bills

Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of February 28, 2019 totaling \$125,893.61. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of February 28, 2019 totaling \$376.89. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business— none.

New Business

The Holiday Food and Gift Basket request for FY2019 was approved. It was moved by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve \$1,500 towards the food/grocery gift cards purchased. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Kelty, Economos and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Kelty to approve the Older Americans Month 2019 Proclamation for May. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Economos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Kelty. The motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk