

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees, Helene Connolly and Karen Taubman (arrived at 6:10pm). Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Mental Health Services/General Assistance Administrator, Avis Rudner, Senior Outreach Coordinator, Cathaleen Roach, and RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell. Trustees Kely and Economos were absent.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation -- None

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- July continues to be extremely busy. Not only did tax bills come out, but River Forest opened for appeals with the Cook County Board of Review starting July 1st. We are simultaneously working to get corrected tax bills very quickly and talking to residents about their assessments and appeal process.
- We will be hosting an outreach here at the River Forest Community Center in room 206, on Thursday, July 25th at 6pm with the Cook County Board of Review staff and the Commissioner.
- We continue to respond to realtors and lawyers. There have also been calls regarding vacancy, sales, exemptions and possible purchases and tax implications.
- Building permits have been filed.
- 2014 Certificate of Errors are no longer being accepted. We are assisting residents with understanding their tax bills.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner

- The Mental Health Committee is finishing up preparing the contracts that will go out tomorrow. This is the conclusion of the budget-related work for this fiscal year's funding cycle.

- The Committee is on vacation until September when they resume planning for next fiscal year's funding cycle.
- Avis attended the Developmental Disabilities Consortium meeting for Carla on June 27. This is the group that brings all of the DD agencies together to work toward shared goals. Avis noted that the group is being led by administrators from Oak Leyden , Suburban Access and West Suburban Special Recreation. Together they are working on a resource guide which has been sent out to the agencies for editing.
- There is one GA client.
- Carla added that Hub website (www.healthconnectionhub.org) training is continuing including for mental health officials from Lyons and Proviso. There was also a training of judges, public defenders and states attorneys at the county court in Maywood. These individuals are looking for ways to better help misdemeanor offenders. There was a large crowd and more trainings have been requested.
- The Opioid Prevention task force met. They are regrouping in the fall after not getting a grant to develop a strategic plan. They will likely start meeting quarterly with smaller committee breakout groups meeting in between to work on various projects.
- The Sibshops program has held summer sessions for the first time this summer, thanks to a grant from the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board. Attendance has been small but the program is worthwhile for the kids who do attend.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Carla had an opportunity to work with both Megan Traficano and Sara Marx in Youth Services in regard to RF families in need. Amanda Stephans, the Youth Interventionist who worked with River Forest youth, will be moving to Positive Youth Development, and Youth Services is looking for her replacement.
- The Positive Youth Development (PYD) School Committee met to plan the parent forum related to 'Marijuana is Legal...Now What?' They've brought in the League of Women Voters to help them reach out to a wide network of speakers in the field who are able to present the facts and engage the audience.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Cathaleen and Carla met with Carol Nelson, whom they met at last month's grant writing seminar at Triton and offered our support with Concordia University's Summer Day Camp for Seniors Camp, a pilot program to be held at Concordia University. This is a new type of effort and we've been doing outreach for them. Marc Blesoff wrote about it also in last week's Wednesday Journal. Discussion followed.
- Cathaleen will be doing one Memoir Writing seminar for camp attendees in August.

- As for our regular year-long programming, which we call Celebrating Seniors All Year Long, we recently co-hosted a number of well-attended events in June and July. On July 20 at the Library we will have a “Celebration of 50 years Walk on the Moon and Apollo 11” with actor Terry Lynn portraying astronaut Neil Armstrong; the Fitness Series continues with a Bike Program on July 20 with Wheel and Sprocket Oak Park; and on Tuesday July 30, a local law firm will discuss issues and considerations in long term care planning and, in a related vein, on August 13 Medicare ABCD’s from Age Options.

- Cathaleen mentioned a few constituent calls from local seniors to assist with issues like use of our medical equipment ending library; the reduced fee State of Illinois license plate program; the discounted Blue Cab fare program; access to a disability placard for handicapped parking; and referrals to Dana and Sam Ferdinand for the SHIP program, which continues to receive widespread support from our local residents.

Supervisor’s Report

Carla Sloan

- The Township marched in the July 4 Oak Park parade with Oak Park Township.
- Carla was asked by Sue Quinn, River Forest Library Director, to join the Oak Park-River Forest chapter of Rotary. Rotary’s mission aligns very much with the Township’s in terms of youth and mental health. River Forest Township will now be represented at Rotary, along with all other River Forest taxing bodies.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of July 31, 2019 in the amount of \$55,488.96. It was seconded by Trustee Taubman. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of July 31, 2019 totaling \$798.82. It was seconded by Trustee Taubman. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Connolly, Taubman, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business

- The Rotary Food Truck Rally will be held on August 24 with the Township participating once more with a variety of activities.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Taubman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Connolly. The motion was unanimous. The meeting ended at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk