

## **RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 10, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Without a quorum present of those who attended the August meeting, approval of the minutes of the August 20, 2019 was tabled to the next meeting.

**Public Participation**—Carla noted that Jane Schlichting, who had been the Township representative to the League of Women Voters, had passed away in August.

#### **Reports**

**Assessor**

**Pamela Kende**

**(Report read by Clerk Abby Schmelling)**

- Updated web pages with press releases and information regarding the Board of Review.
- Fielded questions regarding a new sale price and its relationship to a tax bill.
- Completed and verified permits sent to Cook County after solving an IT glitch.
- Processed Certificates of Error.
- Helped residents with re-review questions for Board of Review appeals.
- Fielded questions regarding when Board of Review will announce their results.
- Submitted occupancy certificates.
- Kathy Elliot attended the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee meeting.
- Working with Riverside and with the Cook County Assessor for a smooth implementation for River Forest Township 2020 tri-annual reassessment.

## **Mental Health Services/General Assistance**

**Avis Rudner**

- The River Forest Mental Health Committee (MHC) met and welcomed its two new members, Susan Narkis and Anne Drake. The Committee is talking next month about the budgets, the next fiscal year, funding and applications, etc.
- Avis attended the initial meeting of the RF Complete Count Committee, whose agenda is to get as large a response to the census as possible from River Forest. Carla followed up with the committee's process of connecting with representative organizations in our community to make sure all constituencies are informed and counted. The committee meets again at the end of the month. The Township will be on the government committee of the Complete Count Committee.
- Carla noted that the MHC would like to play a more meaningful role in the community by participating in a local project or task force; this would be beyond the MHC's grant funding cycle activities.
- The Behavioral Health Consortium met on August 22. These are all the agencies related to mental health, substance addiction and prevention. Everyone shared their program information and connections were made.
- Carla attended the Legislative Breakfast at the Way Back Inn campus in Maywood. She toured one of the residences. Senator Kimberly Lightford related the process the legislature took in passing the recreational marijuana and gambling bills, including how the revenues will be distributed. Rep. Chris Welch gave a nice shout out to both River Forest and Oak Park Townships.
- The Marijuana Town Hall is now set for Wednesday, October 2. Senator Lightford will attend and present the same info she did at the Way Back Inn.
- Our HUB trainings continue. Another funder, Community Memorial Foundation, will provide support. Funding from other groups is also likely. This will help support trainings and hopefully a HUB administrative person to more effectively sustain the program.
- The Addiction Recovery Team will hold a panel discussion lunch on Saturday, September 14 at Concordia which will include Russell Brand's movie 'From Addiction to Recovery'.
- Summer Sibshops starts on September 21; we are in the process of marketing the Sibshops to River Forest and Oak Park families.
- Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation's Women Leaders in Philanthropy (WLIP) has agreed to once again fund Support 4U, with a \$10,000 grant. The Township is grateful for WLIP's support of this worthwhile program for our middle school and high school students.

## **Senior Outreach Coordinator**

**Cathaleen Roach**

- Fall programming has begun. Carla and Cathaleen co-hosted Sunday, September 8's Memoir Author visit at the Library, featuring Barbara Hoffbeck Scoblic's *Lost*

*Without the River: A Memoir.* This is the first prong of our three-prong series on Memoir Writing. The next events will be “Getting Started” and “Genealogy and Other Historical Research” for Memoir Writing.

- Yesterday’s Coffee Monday was especially well received. It featured three members from Ten Thousand Villages discussing ‘Fair Trade’ and arts sales in Oak Park.
- On Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, WGN’s Steve Darnall takes us back with ‘A Beginner’s Guide to the Golden Age of Radio’.
- Carla will spearhead a Falls Prevention talk at the October 7 Coffee Monday in coordination with the River Forest Fire Department.
- Connect With Tech has expanded to include ‘Connect With Tech *Express*’. Hosted at our local Panera, it began this month with librarian Dorothy Houlihan answering questions about smartphones, tablets, laptops, etc. Sixteen people attended. Holding the program at Panera will increase public awareness of Connect With Tech and help with the space crunch created by the library’s renovation project.
- Carla and Cathaleen meet tomorrow in a senior outreach effort to the recently arrived local pastor, Christian Coon, from United Methodist River Forest.
- We continue to work with the Village on the Census project to make sure all seniors are counted since much of the count will be done online.
- Cathaleen and Carla will attend the Monday, September 30 meeting of Dementia Friendly at Village Hall. No meeting was held in August.
- We are working on Elder Scams Prevention with the River Forest Police Department and a local attorney for the SEC, as well as November’s programming on the recent UNESCO World Site designation for the Frank Lloyd Wright Unity Temple.
- Senior pickleball has started up again. It is now Thursdays at 1pm rather than Wednesdays at 1pm.
- Meaningful Living groups for older adults start up on September 29 at Concordia Counseling Center.
- We received a nice thank you note from Steve Smith who retired from Senior Services.

## **Youth Services**

**Carla Sloan**

- A Level Up back to school event was held September 7 at Oak Park River Forest High School for students and families. We had a table with Oak Park Community Health Board to promote the HUB and Support 4U.
- Sarah Mayeda has reluctantly resigned from the Youth Services Committee after three years of wonderful service.
- The Youth Services Committee reconvenes on September 11. The committee needs more River Forest members, so we will enhance our recruiting efforts.

- We have two new youth interventionists: Laura Devitt, an MSW from UIC who was a social work intern at Roosevelt and will continue to work at Roosevelt in River Forest, and Ana Cintron, who has a masters in counseling from NIU and interned at Thrive. They join Dominique Hickman and Sara Marx, who are already on the youth interventionist team.

### **Supervisor's Report**

**Carla Sloan**

- There has been a smooth transition from Community Bank Oak Park River Forest to Byline Bank.
- Lisa Devivo set up a meeting with herself, Senator Kim Lightford and Carla, which was productive and offered a unique opportunity to spend time with the Senator.
- Carla attended a Communityworks advisory board meeting and heard status reports from the three groups which Communityworks funds: SAY, PlanIt Green and Leadership Lab.

### **Approval of Bills**

- Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve Operating Fund bills as of September 30, 2019 in the amount of \$13,919.49. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Kelty and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of September 30, 2019 totaling \$717.48. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Trustees Taubman, Economos, Kelty, and Supervisor Sloan. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

- The Rotary Food Truck Rally was Saturday, August 24. It was an amazing event, with great weather and attendance. Carla thanked all who helped, including Trustee Karen Taubman, Eric Taubman and Ed Sloan who did setup and takedown. Thanks to the huge support from Oak Park Township staff who helped work at the Township tent and to Trustee Kelty for stopping by.
- Carla gave an update of the FY2019 Audit which is still not completed by the auditor.

### **New Business**

Abby talked about the woodworking tools which are available from the Senior Citizens' Center woodshop, which not be moving to Dole Library with the Center.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Kelty to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation, at 6:33 pm.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Economos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Kelty. The motion was by unanimous. The meeting ended at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk