

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:06PM. This was a meeting held both in person and electronically by Zoom.

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

Public Participation: None.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Herrman and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2022 regular meeting. Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Strom, Connolly, Taubman, and Herrman. Nays: none. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Assessor Kende was busy helping residents with their exemption forms and questions. There was some confusion for residents who have applied and then got the exemption booklet mailed to them after they applied. The Cook County Assessor is taking 6-8 weeks to apply a new exemption.
- Assessor Kende reported that the Board of Review mailed/emailed out their decisions. Her office fielded questions regarding what the Board of Review reduction means, how it will tax bills, and when it takes effect (2nd installment of 2022).
- Assessor Kende fielded calls regarding the Cook County Appeal period. They are currently scheduled to open soon for appeals with the Cook County Assessor. No dates are set as of yet. The appeal period will be open for 30 days.
- Assessor Kende created Constant Contact notification to be used when appealing with the Cook County Assessor once dates are given.
- Assessor Kende attended the CCTAA meeting.
- Assessor Kende mailed notices to all the delinquent tax properties (6) in River Forest. Tax sale date for 2019 taxes was May 12.
- Assessor Kende imported all sales data.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Sarah Schwarting

- Sarah reported that she and Carla were invited to a tour of the new Infant Welfare Society clinic that opened in March at 28 Madison St. They got to see a clinic room donated by the funds raised from the 2021 River Forest LemonAid Stand and are also attending the grand opening of the clinic on June 9th.
- Sarah said that the IPlan survey has been circulated to residents and stakeholders to gain participation in the needs assessment survey. It continues to be circulated and currently has over 550 OPRF participants. Supervisor Sloan continues to meet on the IPlan with Oak Park Health Department and other partners. Supervisor Sloan further reported that Leading Healthy Futures has been hired to lead the rest of the IPlan, including the focus groups among population groups, stakeholder meetings and data analysis. Supervisor Sloan said that they had their initial meeting with LHF to establish the timetable.
- Sarah said that the Progress Center's outreach table at Jewel was well attended. Their hope was to gain one new email list member and they gained 5. Another information session will be held at the RF library in July, date TBD.
- Sarah and Supervisor Sloan will attend the HUB and 211 informational session on Thursday and will be sharing information learned at these meetings with Consortium members. Supervisor Sloan explained that the goal is to retain focus on the future of the HUB now that the 211 line is on the fast track for development in Chicagoland.
- Sarah stated that the Behavioral Health Consortium met on May 11th and was well attended by over 30 people. The Way Back Inn shared two screening questions to help identify those with problem gambling disorder and these screening questions are being shared with our other funded agencies.
- Sarah said the consortium for agencies working with those who have intellectual or developmental disabilities will be held at the Oak Park library on the morning of May 25th.
- Sarah will be joining the Positive Youth Development meetings beginning on May 18th.
- Sarah stated that the mental health committee has raised mental health issues amongst youth, specifically the disproportionate number of transgender youth who are at risk for attempting suicide. The committee is getting more involved in partnering with community speakers, and we will be having our annual dinner at New Rebozo on June 7th at 7pm.
- Sarah reported that the PlanItGreen Committee will be reviewing the Oak Park climate plan at their next meeting on May 19th and currently Oak Park has partnered with River Forest to make a trail that will be called a "regional greenway." This is a trail that will connect our two communities to the Des Plaines River Bike Path. Oak Park's three main areas of climate work are in mitigation, adaptation and sustainability, and Helene and Sarah continue to meet with the committee to determine further areas for River Forest partnership.
- Supervisor Sloan and Sarah also attended the awards ceremony and breakfast hosted by Sarah's Inn on April 27th. The speaker was Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart.

- Sarah said that there is a second mental health survey currently being conducted by the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board and River Forest Township to a more targeted audience and that the survey currently has about 40 River Forest respondents. Supervisor Sloan added that the survey is being sent out by Northern IL University. River Forest Township is paying to guarantee 20% participation by River Forest residents.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that the partnership between Rosecrance and OPRF High School worked well. We are still waiting for data.
- Supervisor Sloan said that we continue to have one GA client, with GA being successfully administered by April Dugal at OPT.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy sent out her monthly River Forest email and weekly Community Connect email.
- Coffee Monday speaker Mary Anne Ojeda from Oak Park River Forest Township talked about services and programming.
- Betsy went to a couple of housing talks put on by the Village of Oak Park around ADUs and Affordable Land Trusts.
- Betsy has been busy with Celebrating Senior Events. The Healthy Aging Fair was last week and about 50 people came through. The River Forest Fire Department, the River Forest Police Department and the Township and North West Housing Partnership all participated.
- Betsy reported that the Housing Forum was a success after a lot of planning. About 80 people overall attended, and the speakers were very interesting and informative. She will follow up with an evaluation and figure out what the next steps will be. One woman from River Forest said she may be interested in looking into homesharing. The ICE Packet/pancake breakfast event with the River Forest Fire Department at Sheridan on Friday will be the final event.
- Betsy reported that the Super Senior Event with Township Senior Services was canceled due to Covid. All the Oak Park Township events have either been canceled, moved outside or on Zoom.
- Betsy said that programs with the Park District have been good, although people would like to see more ongoing programming with Pickleball, Yoga, Tai Chi and Bocce. SOC will talk with both park districts. They will be talking at our next Coffee Monday too.
- Betsy and Supervisor Sloan met with the Village of River Forest's Lisa Scheiner and Brian Murphy about the Homesharing Pilot. We agreed to get the Village involved when we do home visits to make sure the home meets safety codes. Robyn Sandys from North West Housing Partnership asked for some homesharing information because she is hoping to do it herself.
- Betsy met with the Mather Circle of Friends Group. Although Mather has ended their programming, the group said they will keep meeting monthly so they can be in touch.

- Supervisor Sloan said Betsy has done an amazing job on Celebrating Seniors Week. Housing Forum was an excellent program, well-run and well-attended. All programs have been strong. Cathaleen Roach was here today to teach memoir writing.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan and Trustee Herrman

- Trustee Herrman announced that there are two Oak Park vacancies on the Youth Services Committee.
- Trustee Herrman reported that the Youth Services Committee is still reviewing its grant application process and considering instituting ceilings for grants and changing the process to make applications easier. This decision will be made in September. The committee would also like to add youth members.
- Trustee Herrman said that a Day in our Village is taking place on June 5th.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that there is a great article about the Youth Engagement Program in the Chicago Tribune. She will send it to the trustees. Youth Services and Youth Engagement Program staff have presented to all River Forest Boards except the Village; all River Forest Boards have voted to support Youth Engagement Program. The Village of River Forest does not appear to be interested in supporting the program. The Village of Oak Park is currently performing a study on what they should be supporting due to their new village manager and police superintendent.
- Supervisor Sloan spoke with ISearch staff to discuss the 2023 grant. Still TBD.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan attended the Administrators Meeting. D90 focused on getting to the end of the year safely, with COVID on the rise. The River Forest Park District announced the addition of two new pickleball courts at Washington Park and four new pickleball courts at Keystone Park. The Village of River Forest announced the demolition of the Lutheran Family Services Building in August/September. The Village of River Forest also announced that a taco restaurant will be opening on North Avenue near Harlem.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the Sarah's Inn breakfast at Oak Park Country Club. The speaker was Tom Dart.
- Supervisor Sloan met with Mike Sletten and Brian Murphy to provide them with an overview of the history of the RFCCA Building feasibility study. Supervisor Sloan prepared two update documents that she will share with the trustees.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that the TOCC Supervisors Division meeting was attended by 12 townships.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the NAMI fundraiser at the 19th Century Club.

Approval of Bills

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Strom to approve River Forest Township Operating Fund bills as of May 31, 2022 in the amount of \$26,645.05.

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

Unfinished Business

- Vanessa Druckman provided an update of the website redesign. Hutchinson Associates delivered mock ups of the home page, the mental health page, and of the minutes, agendas and budgets pages. The website look and feel is beginning to come together and we are getting a sense of the design elements available. Vanessa Druckman provided Hutchinson Associates with the final copy for the home page. Supervisor Sloan, Trustee Strom, and Vanessa Druckman will be meeting next week to finalize the copy for the Mental Health page and the Meetings and Financials page before submitting it to Hutchinson Associates.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that a discussion on our Mission and Vision is postponed to our June meeting.
- Supervisor Sloan shared the 2023 Prevention Services IGA with updated proposed funding chart with a couple of changes from our last meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Herrman to approve FY 2023 and FY 2024 Prevention Services IGA in the amount of \$10,000.

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

New Business

- Supervisor Sloan provided an overview of the proposed FY2023 budget.
 - Town Fund: \$736,502
 - RFCCA: \$72,555
 - General Assistance: \$19,000
 - Total: \$828,057

Discussion ensued. No vote will be taken until the June meeting.

Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 6 pm.

A motion was made by Trustee Strom and seconded by Trustee Connolly to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm. Roll call was taken. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk