

## **RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, June 14, 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, 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 Strom and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the minutes of the May 17, 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**

As Assessor Kende was not present at the meeting, Clerk Druckman read the Assessor report. Assessor Kende reported the following:

- Assessor Kende said the new on-line system for filing exemptions with the Cook County Assessor is working well. It still takes about 6-8 weeks for the application to be entered into the system.
- Assessor Kende received many phone calls regarding when the Cook County Assessor was going to open for the River Forest Township appeal period. She has been told that we will again be one of the first townships to open for the 2022 appeal period with the Cook County Assessor but we have not been given a timeline as to when we will open.
- Assessor Kende coded building permits and submitted to the Cook County Assessor.
- Assessor Kende reported that she has over 1,000 contacts uploaded into our Constant Contact file.
- Kathy Elliott went to 8 hours of Diversity Equity Inclusion & Anti-Racism Training (DEI). This was sponsored by The Oak Park -River Forest Community Foundation. It was a great opportunity to brainstorm with board members of various local governmental offices and non-profits. Topics covered included: The Four Quadrants of Racism, Effective Allyship, DEI Strategies, and Advocacy for Equity.

- Assessor Kende updated the Assessor section of the River Forest Township website.

## **Mental Health Services**

**Sarah Schwarting**

- Sarah met with Norah Collins from Dominican University. She reports that they are **interested in all funded agencies** <not sure what this means?>, and also that they are interested in forming partnerships.
- Sarah met with Christopher Johnson from Concordia University and sent him information about FRED.
- Sarah attended A Day in Our Village on June 5<sup>th</sup> and worked with Positive Youth Development in passing out materials encouraging parents to help their children stay away from drugs and alcohol.
- Sarah attended the I/DD Consortium meeting. Member agencies want to work on employment opportunities for their clients.
- The Mental Health Committee had their end-of-year dinner on June 7<sup>th</sup> at New Rebozo in Forest Park; most committee members were in attendance.
- Sarah reported that about 20 people attended the Bike and Brunch Ride for Recovery in May.
- Sarah reported that data from Rosecrance shows that about 68% of families who had a drug screening assessment followed through with recommended treatment for their teens at OPRF high school.
- Sarah stated that the IPLAN is still moving forward; the IPLAN community survey of Oak Park and River Forest residents received 750 responses. A separate survey, in which River Forest Township also participated, was done by Oak Park Township/CMHB; this survey, which was sent out by Northern Illinois University, currently has 81 of the 100 needed RF participants.
- Supervisor Sloan shared that the HUB and 211 meetings are continuing; we are learning more about managing these resources going forward.
- The IPLAN consulting firm Leading Healthy Futures (LHF) shared their data compilation with us at our last core group meeting and showed that the OP and RF communities are more similar than they are different. Ratings on mental health and health screenings are somewhat similar; both communities are showed a high incidence of binge drinking.
- Trustee Herrman shared that she attended the stakeholder meeting for IPLAN. Ten essential public health services were discussed, as well as how the data was gathered. On July 19<sup>th</sup>, LHF will report the data results.

## **General Assistance**

**Carla Sloan**

- Supervisor Sloan said that we continue to have one GA client, with GA being successfully administered by April Dugal at Oak Park Township.

## Senior Outreach Coordinator

**Betsy Kelly**

- Betsy sent out her monthly River Forest email and weekly Community Connect email. She also submitted information to Oak Park Township for the Village of River Forest News and Views.
- Betsy attended the monthly Oak Park River Forest Senior Services Committee Meeting,
- Betsy reported that at the latest Coffee Monday, the Park District of Oak Park and River Forest Park District talked about their programming.
- Betsy finished up with Celebrating Senior Week Events. The final event was at the Sheridan partnering with the River Forest Fire Department to distribute ICE Packets.
- Betsy walked in the Memorial Day Parade.
- Betsy attended Oak Park Township rebranding event.
- Betsy attended the American House introductory event at the Carlton.
- Betsy attended the Juneteenth Flag Raising Event at the River Forest Library.
- Betsy met with Amanda Gosnell and Cheryl Green at the Sheridan to talk about existing programming and discussed potential programming with the River Forest Library and the River Forest and Oak Park Park Districts. Cheryl Green has been using Community Connect and River Forest Email with the residents, extending the reach of our communications beyond our email list.
- Betsy attended the Age Options Aging Plan Meeting and spoke about being more creative with helping older adults stay in the community longer, including homesharing.
- Betsy met with Vanessa Druckman to talk about the Senior Services Page for the River Forest Township webpage.
- Betsy worked on the homesharing forms. She spoke with Julie Bach briefly from Dominican School of Social Work about homesharing. She attended a zoom meeting about two different homesharing programs in NY and CA. She also attended a home adaptability zoom meeting.
- Betsy reviewed evaluations from the Housing Forum and is figuring out the next steps. 21 people want to continue to be in touch about upcoming events and any follow up. 33 people responded.
- Betsy reported that the Super Senior Event (that was supposed to take place during Celebrating Senior Week) has been rescheduled for July 18th at River Forest Community Center.
- Betsy said that she is working on rethinking Mather Programming (online/virtual/call in programming) as Mather Cafes are over. She plans to talk more with Pam Mahn and the Sheridan to discuss how we can fill this gap.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that volunteers are needed to serve lunch and help with lunch delivery at Township Senior Services.
- Supervisor Sloan commended Betsy for her efforts on Celebrating Seniors Week which was well attended. The exercise and fitness programs were especially popular.

## **Youth Services**

**Carla Sloan and Trustee Herrman**

- Trustee Herrman announced that the Youth Services Committee is on recess until September.
- Supervisor Sloan provided an update on the re-introduction of Youth Engagement Program to the Village of River Forest. At this time, the Village doesn't believe that two taxing bodies should fund the same program (even though the Township and the Village partner to fund programs like I-Search). Two members of Youth Engagement will speak during the next Village meeting during public comments to re-introduce the program to the Village Trustees.
- Supervisor Sloan said that she has spoken with the I-Search team to re-confirm the decrease in this year's grant.

## **Supervisor's Report**

**Carla Sloan**

- Supervisor Sloan thanked everyone who marched in the Memorial Day Parade. She said the convertible was perfect and thanked Trustee Taubman for driving. She announced that the July 4 parade will be in Oak Park and that all are welcome to march with Oak Park Township.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the big reveal of the Oak Park Township logo which was held for Oak Park Township staff. The meeting addressed the re-branding, the new logo, and the renewed efforts to get the word out about the Oak Park Township and what it does. Betsy went to the larger event which was held last week.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that the Administrators Meeting was postponed this month.
- Supervisor Sloan said that the TOCC Spring conference was held at Schaumburg Township and by zoom. The topic was leadership. Supervisor Sloan thanked Sarah and Vanessa for attending.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the Juneteenth ceremony held at the Library, hosted by the Village and Library. Thanks to Keith, Betsy and Sarah for also attending. The program was meaningful and educational.

## **Approval of Bills**

- A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve River Forest Township Operating Fund bills as of June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$22,483.22.

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

- A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve River Forest Township General Assistance Fund bills as of June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$1,750.

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. She worked with Hutchinson to finalize the creation of three pages on Square Space site for user review. Those pages are the home page, the mental health page, and the minutes, agendas and budget page. She plans to send out to trustees and committee members for feedback later this week. Vanessa also met with Betsy to begin drafting the senior services page. Vanessa met with Pam and Kathy to begin drafting the assessor section of the website. Vanessa continues to update the site architecture document on Miro. Vanessa continues to create more pages of copy for the new website in Google Drive. She is creating a stock photo repository as well as live events pictures for the new website.
- Trustee Taubman said she had no collaboration sub-committee update as the committee did not meet this month.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that a discussion on our Mission and Vision is postponed to later this summer.
- Supervisor Sloan explained that no formal approval is needed for the 2023 Youth Services IGA as it was already voted on in the budget.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that the FY2022 audit is now complete and there were no issues.

### **New Business**

- Approval of FY2023 budget.
  - Town Fund: \$ 741,023
  - GA Fund: \$ 19,000
  - RFCCA Capital Fund: \$ 72,555
  - Total: \$832,578

Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve the FY2023 budget in the amount of \$741,023 for the Town Fund, \$19,000 for the GA fund, \$72,555 for the RFCCA Capital Fund, and a total of \$832,578. Trustee Strom seconded the motion.

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

**Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 6 pm.

A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to adjourn the meeting at 6:53pm. Roll call was taken. The motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk