

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 11, 2018**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of September 11.

Roll called

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Mark Kelty, Karen Taubman, Holly Economos and Helene Connolly. Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, and RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2018 meeting was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Kelty. The motion was passed by Trustees Connolly, Kelty and Supervisor Sloan.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2018 meeting was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Taubman. The motion was passed by Trustees Economos, Taubman and Supervisor Sloan.

Public Participation - None

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende (read by Clerk, Abby Schmelling)

- Board of Review opened for Appeals on August 1. There was an outreach held with the Cook County Board of Review Commissioner at the River Forest Community Center. We submitted press releases for the outreach and had Matt Barron submit information as well. River Forest Township closed August 30. We received a number of appeal inquiries and helped many residents file both online and paper appeals. Paper appeals were given to the Board of Review.
- We are continuing to get calls from lawyers requesting information and forms for their clients.
- We are continuing to process and check on the status of Certificates of Error.
- Maya Cummings-Hill has been assisting this office during this very busy time. She has been very helpful. She has a Master's in Social Work and has experience in the real estate field.

Mental Health Services/General Assistance

Avis Rudner (given by Supervisor Sloan)

- The Township is close to getting its second GA client.
- The Mental Health Committee met. Trustee Economos attended and reported that September is the beginning of the grant application process and fundraising. The Committee asked about what outcomes there have been so far from the Needs Assessment. There was discussion of a paid part-time grant writer or possibly a grant writing training program.
- Carla stated that she will be giving an update on the Needs Assessment at the next meeting of the trustees.

- Sibshops start this week. There is a flier in the packet. Many kids are returning from last year as well as some new kids.
- Lisa Devivo and Mike Charley presented our health needs assessment project at the Illinois Public Health Conference this week in Bloomington. Carla was supposed to present with them as well but was unable to travel. The project was accepted and recognized as an example of health planning collaboration.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Cathaleen and Carla met on September 10 with the River Forest Library to coordinate Fall and Winter programming as part our joint partnership for programming. Also, under consideration is a new once-a-month option, “Social Stitching” for knitters, embroiderers, crocheters, etc. to gather the fourth week of every month. This would complete the ‘Gather, Discover, Engage’ programming and provide one option for ever week of the month, i.e. Week 1, Coffee Monday; Week 2, Connect With Tech, Week 3, Friday Film Lovers and Week 4 would be Social Stitching.
- Cathaleen conducted publicity outreach this month on behalf of our working relationship with the West Suburban Cook County American Job Center which is holding a hospitality-related Job Fair downtown on September 19. Cathaleen gave out a handout on instructions of how to sign up which requires a prescreening at the Center.
- River Forest Township has partnered, both financially and with outreach, with Marc Blesoff and the Wednesday Journal in promoting the October 10 “Changing Aging Tour with Dr. Bill Thomas. There will be three events held on that day designed to “shatter myths” on aging and “fill one with hope and excitement for the future.” A handout was given to the trustees.
- Seventeen participants have enrolled for the Concordia University eight-week Wellness Groups. Two groups meet weekly and start today, September 11 running through October 30. Emphasis will be on positive aspects of aging. This effort comes out of the Needs Assessment to address specific mental health needs for different groups, such as seniors. Carla added that she is now part of joint monthly meetings with the Gerontology Department and their counseling personnel at Concordia along with the Oak Park Community Health Board and Oak Park Township Senior Services. The Wellness Groups help meet the needs of the Counseling Department’s graduate students with their practicum.
- Coffee Monday highlighted Hinsdale’s Wellness House, a privately funded enterprise servicing all ages and anyone affected by cancer, with an array of free services. Wellness House now offers weekly group support at Rush Oak Park Hospital and will host an event this fall at our local River Forest Medical Center as part of its stated goal to expand awareness and local access to our residents.
- October’s Coffee Monday will feature Meditation and Mindfulness.
- The next Senior Services meeting is September 18 with Karen Taubman representing the trustees.

Youth Services

Carla Sloan

- Youth Services Committee met in September, but Carla was attending a TOCC board meeting.

Supervisor’s Comments

Carla Sloan

- Carla attended the TOCC Board meeting (see above).
- Carla attended an open house held by Oak Park Community Mental Health Board at their new offices on Lake Street.

- Carla participated in a dynamic talk on activating and elevating from your strengths at the Senior Executive Roundtable at the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation.
- Carla was a guest of Sue Quinn, RF Library Executive Director, at a recent Rotary lunch. Kristen Keleher from Thrive talked about their new suicide prevention program for the community. Carla weighed in on the activities of the Suicide Prevention Task Force and Support4U.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve Community Bank Operating Fund bills as of September 30, 2018 totalling \$21,644.64. It was seconded by Trustee Kely. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Kely, Economos, Taubman and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve General Assistance MB Financial bills as of September 30, 2018 totalling \$121.91. It was seconded by Trustee Economos. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Kely, Economos, Taubman and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Carla gave a Rotary Rally recap and thanks to all who helped.
- Township Day is Friday, September 21, and Carla talked about our participation.
- The Township audit is complete for 2018 (in Trustees' packets) and we passed with flying colors.

New Business

- A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve Micah Hibler as a new member of the River Forest Township Senior Services Committee. Carla gave a summary of his background. The motion passed unanimously. This makes the committee full.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, October 16 at 6:00 pm. Trustee Economos made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. Trustee Connolly seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk