

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:03PM. 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, Assessor Pam Kende, Mental Health Services Administrator Sarah Schwarting, and Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Participation: None.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Herrman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2022 regular meeting. Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Strom, Connolly, Taubman, and Herrman. Nays: none. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Mental Health Services

Sarah Schwarting

- Sarah reported that the Mental Health Committee received updated rules and voted to accept them unanimously
- Sarah said the Behavioral Health Consortium met on Sept 7th and I/DD Consortium is meeting again at the end of September.
- Sarah shared that on January 1st it will be mandated that all the schools will teach children how to access mental health resources.
- Sarah attended a “They Deserve More” talk presented by Jim Haptonstahl from Seguin. They Deserve More, which advocates to more fairly compensate Direct Service Providers (DSP’s), is meeting with legislators Don Harmon and Chuy Garcia on 8/30/22. Sarah will hear more about this meeting at the end of September.
- Sarah stated that the Plan It Green Committee talked with Tom Cofsky, D200 Board member, about the proposed initiative to install a geothermal energy source under the track, football field and tennis courts. Geothermal energy raises electricity bills so it is also proposed that solar panels be installed to offset those costs.

- Sarah updated her LCSW continuing education requirements to include required courses on mandated reporting for abuse/neglect of both children and elders, working with seniors who have dementia and/or Alzheimer's, and implicit bias in addition to required courses on ethics, cultural competency and sexual harassment in the work place.
- Supervisor Sloan, OP Community Mental Health Board (CMHB) Executive Director Cheryl Potts, and Sarah met with two staff from Thrive to discuss restarting Sibshops.
- Mental Health Committee members are getting more involved in community activities and these will be shared with Helene once a month to report on.
- Supervisor Sloan and Sarah are reviewing the data in the recently received 97-page community survey report from Northern Illinois University, commissioned by the OP CMHB and supported by River Forest Township.
- Sarah reported that DePaul University is expanding its occupational therapy program to include mental health training for its interns and is looking for programs to host their interns.
- Sarah said that the OP CMHB is going to start circulating our Community Connect newsletter.
- Sarah said that Positive Youth Development (PYD) meetings begin again tomorrow.
- Sarah stated that the Progress Center for Independent Living will be doing another outreach seminar at the River Forest Public Library on Sept 29th at 7pm.
- Supervisor Sloan stated that Patti Marino has resigned from the Mental Health Committee after 17 years of service. Carla acknowledged Patti's dedication and contributions to the MHC.
- Susan Schwarting (Sarah's mother) spoke about meditation at the Mental Health Committee meeting.
- Supervisor Sloan shared that the IPlan draft was sent to core team members yesterday. The final report will be sent out at the end of the month.
- Supervisor Sloan commemorated International Overdose Awareness Day in Scoville Park, along with other local elected officials and community stakeholders.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that she continues to meet with the HUB team. They are working on training strategies and the agreement with Find Help. Training is scheduled for October.

General Assistance

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan said that we now have two GA clients, with GA being successfully administered by April Dugal at Oak Park Township.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Assessor Kende continues with the daily activities of the office: Returning phone calls, permits, exemptions, tax bill due date and answering questions regarding purchases.
- Assessor Kende has updated the Assessor's web page on the Township website with new information.
- Assessor Kende said the 2nd installment tax bills may be sent out during the last quarter of 2022. We will be helping residents obtain corrected tax bills due to missing exemptions when the tax bills are mailed.
- Assessor Kende downloaded sales thru July 2022 from the Cook County Treasurer.
- Assessor Kende submitted an e-newsletter for the Village that was printed. Within 24 hours we received 12 additional Constant Contact e-mail addresses. We currently have close to 1,100 subscribers. Kathy is managing the subscription and handling our Constant Contact Campaign extremely well.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy is preparing for the annual TOI Conference in Springfield to talk about Creative Housing Options for Older Adults. She will be presenting with Ruth Reko from the Senior Services Committee as well as Tony Roeder from Marion Street Services.
- Betsy attended the ADU Tour with Evanston Development Coop. In October she hopes to have a "missing middle" tour of housing which is housing between a single family home and a large building complex.
- Betsy went over home sharing forms with Carla. We still need to figure out what background checks to use and run forms by attorney Pat Deady. Betsy is having conversations with other home sharing programs.
- At Coffee Monday yesterday Betsy talked about home sharing to the 10 attendees.
- Betsy provided an update on our mahjong program for seniors. We had 4 successful lessons with volunteer, Marilyn Todd; River Forest resident Liz Ziehl will start teaching September 29th, Thursdays from 1-3. Betsy will spread the word, including posting in Community Connect, RF email as well as reach out to the Sheridan and Altenheim.
- Betsy stated that two new candidates have expressed interested in joining the senior services committee. Betsy is interviewing both candidates.
- Betsy has been helping the Township with home-delivered meals delivery.

- Betsy is attending various meetings on housing: Age Guide Summit, Generations United, and AWN Advocacy meeting.
- Betsy continues to send the Community Connect Mail and RF Township email

Youth and Family Services

Carla Sloan and Trustee Herrman

- Trustee Herrman announced that the next Youth Services Committee will take place on 9/14.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that Township Youth Services' new name, Township Youth and Family Services, has been communicated and is a positive step forward, as it more encompasses their refocused mission on the whole family.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that Jonathan Brown, Youth Engagement Program director, has resigned to work for the City of Chicago. Laura Devitt, who was the Youth Engagement specialist in River Forest, has been promoted to take his place. There is an opening for a new Youth Engagement specialist.
- Supervisor Sloan confirmed that Girls on the Rise will start later this month, as an after-school program at Roosevelt for girls of color. We are excited to have this program starting up in RF after being so successful in OP.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that Youth and Family Services held their family event on August 12 and donated over 200 backpacks to families in need, filled with school supplies donated by the community.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan attended the Townships of Cook County (TOCC) Supervisors Division board meeting at Riverside Township. They discussed the upcoming year of meetings and the speaker schedule.
- Supervisor Sloan will be going to the TOI Conference in Springfield with Sarah to support Betsy's senior housing panel. Resident Ruth Reko will be there with Betsy.

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 September 30, 2022 in the amount of \$32,043.68.

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 September 30, 2022 in the amount of \$2,750.

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. Hutchinson Associates provided us with mockups of the Assessor home page which we approved. Hutch is now building the secondary Assessor pages on the square space website. Betsy requested some additional information to be included in the senior section and I still need to flow this out. Goal is to be done with this revision by 9/16.
- Trustee Taubman said the Collaboration Sub-Committee meeting will take place next week.
- Discussion of the new vision statement has been postponed.

New Business

- Supervisor Sloan presented the FY2022 annual treasurer's report for the Township and General Assistance.
- Trustee Taubman made a motion to accept the FY2022 annual treasurer's report into the record. Trustee Connolly seconded the motion.

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

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to raise the monthly flat grant for General Assistance to \$650. Trustee Herrman seconded the motion.

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

- Supervisor Sloan announced two meeting date changes. The November meeting will be on 11/8 and the December meeting will be on 12/1.

Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 6 pm.

A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to adjourn the meeting at 6:51pm. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk