

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 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, Helen Connolly, and Karen Taubman. Also present: Clerk Vanessa Druckman, Assessor Pam Kende, RFCC executive director Dick Chappell, 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 Connolly and seconded by Trustee Herrman to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022 regular meeting.

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

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy said that since Senior Wellness Groups are no longer being offered by Concordia's Counseling Center, she and Supervisor Sloan reached out to Dominican to see if they could offer groups. Julie Bach at Dominican said they could possibly offer a Reminiscing group. We will have more discussions with her.
- Betsy talked with HomeShare American River in Sacramento who recommended that Homesharing forms be available for online completion. Betsy discussed with Hutch who said this could be done. American River also said that they use American Apartment Owners Association (AAOA) for background checks. Betsy will investigate using AAOA for both homesharers and homeowners.
- Betsy reported many Homesharing promotion updates. Her talk with the STAR group went well; they had many questions. Betsy is reaching out to other groups to continue to spread the word about Homesharing. She will meet with Brenda Powers at the Forest Park Mohr Center in February and the nurse at Grace Lutheran today. She will also reach out to Age Friendly RF. She is also planning to reach out to Janet Hausemann at First United; Age Friendly Group; Sandra Sokol- STAR, Katie Avolos- Community of Congregations; Sheila Essig- Temple Zar. A Homesharing announcement will also go out in News and Views. She will ask the Oak Park Township and the River Forest Township

to post about Homesharing on Facebook. Betsy would like to do a mailing soon and would like support from the Village of River Forest.

- Betsy reported that Silver Sneakers is on hold as Cheryl at the Sheridan currently has time constraints.
- Betsy reported that a resident called asking if we could honor a friend who just turned 105 with a Certificate of Recognition. The certificate is done, and Betsy is waiting to hear back from Cheryl Phillips.
- Pickleball players have requested a specific beginner's class. Betsy emailed Karen Stille who indicated that the current open pickleball is for beginners. New classes are starting up. Betsy also met Kelly Frank who is running the pickleball program.
- Betsy announced that Celebrating Seniors Week will be May 11- 18th. She will reach out to the River Forest Public Library as well as the River Forest Park District to talk about programming.
- Betsy said that Mahjong continues to be going well. A group of six players is still coming by. Some women head to Florida for the winter, so the group is currently smaller, although new folks will be joining in January.
- Betsy said that Arbor West Neighbors did a community Asset Map a few years back and wants to re-visit the effort. Betsy will look over the past Asset Map and see how we can add to it. Will meet March 14th.
- Betsy is still helping with Township Senior Services meal delivery until they have enough volunteers.
- Betsy sent out the monthly RF Senior Newsletter as well as the weekly Community Connect Newsletter.
- Supervisor Sloan added that the Sheridan sent us two checks totaling \$10,000, one for 2022 and one for 2023, which they contractually owed the Township as an impact fee.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Assessor Kende said that December was the busiest month of 2022. She and her staff worked daily, including weekends and holidays.
- Assessor Kende said that the long-anticipated 2nd Installment Property Tax Bills were sent out to residents with a due date of December 30th, 2022. She and her staff assisted taxpayers with getting Certificates of Error for missing exemptions, tracking down filed Certificates of Error that the Cook County Treasurer misplaced, as well as printing and assisting with on-line payment of property tax bills. We also assisted taxpayers who had their payment checks stolen from the Post Office.

- Assessor Kende said the Board of Review 2022 assessment appeal period opened on November 28 and closed December 27th. We assisted over 100 residents with their appeals. Board of Review's website sent error messages that caused significant confusion; we often had to explain the error message to the residents, and some were quite upset.
- Assessor Kende sent out a Constant Contact notification the same day that we were notified of each of these two events. We were inundated with phone calls and emails. We created appeal packets and answered questions regarding tax bills and appeals.
- Assessor Kende said 1st installment property tax bills will be mailed at the end of January with an extended due date without penalty of April 3rd. 1st installment tax bills are 55% of the total amount paid in 2022.
- Assessor Kende stated that 2023 is a triennial reassessment year for the Southern Townships. River Forest is in the Southern Township District of Cook County. It is unknown as to when River Forest will be mailed its reassessment notices.
- Assessor Kende updated the website, Google calendar, and submitted e-newsletter.
- Assessor Kende submitted permits to the Cook County Assessor.

Mental Health Services

Sarah Schwarting

- Sarah reported that she is in the middle of collecting Q3 data and will be sending out agency reminders soon about submitting Q4 data as close to April 1 as possible.
- Sarah said that the Behavioral Health Consortium met on January 10. Agencies were asked for feedback on the HUB, including usage and perceived benefits. Most agencies have challenges using the HUB as a closed loop referral system; they felt HUB data are not always current. Some prefer the DCFS Spider system. Agencies noted that the HUB is a decent starting place for a search but has some operational weaknesses. In addition, we expect the 211 system to roll out more fully in Cook County in the coming months. Discussions are ongoing as to how we will proceed when our HUB contract is up September 1.
- Sarah reported that the Mental Health Committee (MHC) is reviewing funding applications and conducting site visits.
- Sarah said that she continues to interview new members for the MHC. Melinda Peterson accepted the position of committee chairperson.
- As part of their strategic planning process, OP Community Mental Health Board (CMHB) will host two community feedback sessions, Jan 19th for residents and Jan 25th for providers.

- Sarah announced that the I/DD consortium will meet again at the end of this month; all consortium meetings are already on the calendar for April, July, and October.
- Sarah said the Marijuana Prevention town hall meeting will be held Thurs Feb 9th, 6:30 – 8 pm at Brooks Middle School.
- Supervisor Sloan and Sarah met today with CMHB to talk about next steps with the HUB.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that Sibshops started up again on January 7. She will get a report as to how many kids are attending.
- Supervisor Sloan said that planning for the in-person April 19 Parent University is already underway. Parent U will have a strong keynote speaker with four choices for other classes. Speakers will focus on practical tips which parents can take away.
- Supervisor Sloan said that attendance at the LOSS support group has increased up to 8 participants. No data yet on January attendance.

General Assistance

Carla Sloan

- We currently have one GA client, with several requests for rental assistance. There is not a plethora of funds to assist with rental assistance. One senior resident reported a rent increase from \$1000 to \$1400 and asked if we were able to subsidize. Unfortunately, we are not financially structured to provide this type of ongoing support.
- Supervisor Sloan will be meeting with Gavin Morgan and April Dugal on Friday to kick off our discussions about Emergency Assistance, which both Townships want to implement starting April 1.
- Supervisor Sloan stated that the Holiday Food and Gift Basket program finished for the year, and all went well. Sadly, Angie Seder is resigning as Director; she did an excellent job.

Youth and Family Services

Carla Sloan and Trustee Herrman

- Trustee Herrman reported Contractor Night took place on January 4. Supervisor Sloan was in attendance as well as Trustee Herrman. Wonder Works and ISearch were also in attendance. Contractors did not present at Contractors Night. It was more of a Q&A on applying.
- Trustee Herrman said all grant applications were sent out Nov. 18 and are due by Jan. 13.
- Trustee Herrman worked with ISearch to enhance their grant application and program offering.

- Supervisor Sloan added that Girls on the Rise continues at Roosevelt with strong numbers attending. Girls on the Rise is still interviewing for additional staff, so that they can start groups at Willard and Lincoln in January.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan announced that the TOCC Supervisors Division meeting take place on Thursday in Elk Grove Village. The guest speaker will talk about the Local Government Efficiency Act.

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 January 31, 2023 in the amount of \$19,816.17.

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

Unfinished Business

- Vanessa Druckman provided an update of the website redesign. She stated that the Assessor Pages, Mental Health Pages, About Pages are fully built. A portion of the Mental Health and Resident Services are built. Youth services section has not begun. She also provided feedback to Hutchinson Associates about the voter registration page, Civic Center Authority Page, Employment and Volunteer Page, and Township News Page. Would like to finish all pages before the next meeting (2/21) so we can begin editing and getting ready to go live by 3/1. Hard deadline of 3/31.
- Trustee Taubman said the Collaboration Sub-Committee meets tomorrow.
- Supervisor Sloan announced that she filed the 2022 levy and the 2023 meeting dates have been published.

New Business

- Supervisor Sloan said that the list of Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) filers has been submitted and SEI's are due May 1.

Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 6 pm. A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk