



RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Caring | Connection | Community

## **River Forest Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:05 PM. This was a meeting held both in person and electronically by Zoom.

### **Roll Call:**

- Supervisor Sloan, Trustees: Helene Connolly and Karen Taubman.
  - Manager Deanna Herrman participated via Zoom with a qualified business reason.
  - Manager Keith Strom was excused “absent”.
- Also present: Clerk John Becvar, Mental Health Services Administrator Sarah Schwarting, Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly, and RFCCA Facilities Administrator/RFCC Executive Director Dick Chappell.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Public Participation:**

- Public was not in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023 regular meeting.
  - The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

### **Assessor**

- Assessor Kende provided a written report stating:
  - We learned Monday that River Forest Township is open for appeals with the Cook County Board of Review. In the process of redistricting and transitioning to our new commissioner, Larry Rodgers, Jr., River Forest Township was lost in the shuffle. We were not notified until yesterday that we were opening from 9/18/23-10/17/23 and the commissioner’s outreach team did not contact us in advance to facilitate a community outreach appeal event. We have now set up a community outreach event for October 2. They apologize for overlooking us and are committed to rectifying the situation. We have also reached out to the Board of Review Team and requested they update their website information to reflect the fact River Forest Township is indeed in Cook County’s Third District.

- The 2nd installment tax bills will be sent out during the last quarter of 2023. The Assessor's office will be helping residents obtain corrected tax bills due to missing exemptions when the tax bills are mailed.
- In the meantime, the Assessor's team continues the daily activities of the office: returning phone calls, updating the Assessor's web page on the Township website, processing permits and exemptions, and filing Certificates of Error for 2022 tax bills. They reviewed 1050 permits from 2022 to assure all qualifying permits were submitted. Assessor Kende also attended the Cook County Assessor's Association meeting.

## **Mental Health Services**

- Mental Health Administrator Schwarting said:
  - 1st quarter checks were mailed out to the mental health and I/DD agencies in August.
  - She has been keeping up with LinkedIn posts announcing agency and township news regularly for our almost 100 followers.
  - The HUB officially had its sunset on September 1, 2023.
  - Parent University planning meetings are underway for the Fall Parent University which will be held November 15, 2023.
  - The updated Mental Health Resource Guide is close to being complete.
  - Administrator Schwarting met with the new program director at the *Progress Center for Independent Living* and officially introduced her to Township processes.
  - The final consortium meetings of the calendar year will be held this coming October.
  - The Mental Health Committee (MHC) had their first meeting after the summer break and have started site visits. They hope to have the visits complete by early November with funding applications due in mid-December 2023.
  - Schwarting attended the CSS donor event in Brookfield and reported it was very well done and well attended.
- Supervisor Sloan added:
  - We are about 80% complete with our work on the mental health resource guide. The plan is to have the final copy by the end of next week and send it to the printer.
  - Reps from D90 and D97 are formally on the planning committee for the Fall Parent University scheduled for November 15 at OPRF High School.
  - Sloan is working with Debbie Lubeck from D90 to plan a parents night on Sept 21 for parents of students with IEPs. Lubeck is trying to get a parent support group off the ground, so we will hopefully obtain parent input at this meeting to inform future meetings.
  - There is a new opening on the MHC. Beth Dunne resigned due to heavy work commitments. We give our formal thanks to Beth.

## **General Assistance (GA)**

- Supervisor Sloan reported we continue to have one (1) GA client. Sloan added the Township does not have any new Emergency Assistance (EA) grants.

## Senior Outreach Coordinator

- Senior Outreach Coordinator Kelly reported:
  - She distributed flyers about the Township Senior services and programming with the River Forest Library to different building complexes in River Forest.
  - She met with new Senior Services Committee Chairs and Director of Township Senior Services to talk about upcoming year, roles and how to get committee members more involved.
  - Kelly will hold a talk on 9/27 with Chris Hauri and Megan Ulczak at the 19th Century Club about Community Connect, overview of Township Services and Home Sharing Pilot.
  - A Super Senior DMV event will take place at the River Forest Community Center on 10/23 (10am-2pm). It's also an opportunity to get a "Real ID".
  - Kelly will also participate in the Cindy Lyons Health Fair at Mohr Center on October 25.
  - Kelly followed up with the Dominican reminiscing class participants to get feedback on the classes. The feeling was classes were not what people expected, but were very good. Participants would have liked more conversation with the students.
  - She has updated the Home Sharing flier to make it more enticing and added an inquiry form on the new website. Supervisor Sloan suggested we circle back with the Village of River Forest on this topic.
  - Zumba Gold with Tocarra (BeFit) will start at the Oak Park Township Senior Services location. Laura Valcour said the Oak Park Township will pay for the first 5 classes (starting 10/10) with a grant that they have. Kelly is investigating if the classes are offered as a Silver Sneakers Program or if River Forest Township should help fund additional classes. Supervisor Sloan reminded us that it is good to piggyback on programs versus trying to do this on our own.
  - We are approaching the Medicare Open Enrollment time frame. We have had several Medicare Presentations: Annese Piazza (October 2nd *Coffee Monday* and available 9/7 after Mahjong); Age Options (September Coffee Monday- Medicare Fraud/Age Options); Township SHIP Counselors (presented on September 18 to a small group).
  - Mahjong is going strong. More people are showing up so we moved to a bigger space (202W) and are considering ordering more sets and card tables. The Bridge Group is exploring meeting locations as well.
  - LemonAid - River Forest Township was in charge of the "Conversation Station" on the 700 block of Bonnie Brae. It was supposed to be a place for people to sit and relax, but it turned out to be a rainy day. Township Clerk Becvar brought the wheel and plenty of prizes, which was a big hit with the kids. Residents signed up to receive Township email newsletters.
  - Kelly went to the Ground Breaking of Oak Park Commons CoHousing on 9/14.

- She continues to send the Community Connect and RF Emails. Kelly and Supervisor Sloan met with the designer to begin work on the senior mailing. The designer submitted an initial draft to review.

### **Youth and Family Services (YFS)**

- Trustee Herrman attended the YFS meeting on September 6. There is a new Oak Park Trustee Liaison to the YFS Committee Margie Trybus. The school supply drive gave out 260 bags and YFS was approached by the park district to make it bigger next year. YFS is starting to go over grants for the upcoming year. The Senior Services Committee and the YFS Committee would like to explore an inter-generational grant.
- Supervisor Sloan shared there is a new opening on the Youth & Family Services Committee. Roza Briscovic has resigned and we thank her for her service.
- *Girls on the Rise* is up and running at Willard and Roosevelt schools.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Supervisor Sloan reported the Rotary Food Truck Rally was on August 26. She thanked everyone who turned out to help on a beautiful day. Many kids and adults came by the Township tent to spin the wheel and get a prize. Matt Baron was our superhero juggler and helped attract people to the tent. Everyone had a good time.
- Supervisor Sloan thanked all the volunteers who helped with the 9-11 *LemonAid* event. We provided a \$250 sponsorship that included our logo on their website and materials.

### **Approval of Bills**

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve River Forest Township operating fund bills as of September 30, 2023 in the amount of \$23,141.17.
  - Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Herrman, and Taubman. Nays: none. Absent: Strom. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Website Project update
  - Website Project Manager Kathy Elliot has been hard at work on the new Township website. Clerk Becvar has also been assisting. We are targeting a November 1 launch, working around John's upcoming vacation and the Assessor's office being open for appeals.
- Collaboration Sub-Committee update
  - Trustee Karen Taubman attended the September meeting and reported:
    - The River Forest Public Library is looking to have a community wide book drive in the Summer 2024 and would need a temporary, overnight storage for the books. Taubman suggested the RFCC gym might be a possible option given how accessible it would be for dropping off books.
    - District 90 schools reported full-day kindergarten has started and they too are looking to re-do their website..

- The Village reported they have issued a final extension for the Lake on Lathrop project (that subsequently did not meet the deadline resulting in the permit being canceled). The Village continues to discuss the traffic patterns in North River Forest.
- OPRF High School reported they broke ground earlier this year to put a full size track between the football and tennis courts. Infield will be turfed and open to the public. OPRF High School is also celebrating 150 years this year.
- The River Forest Park District reported the air handler project at Library is creating water issues with the softball field. The Keystone project is close to completion and Washington Park's new equipment will be installed in the next few weeks.
- There was discussion of putting more links and messages in each other's communications and websites.
- The next Collaboration Committee meeting is November 8 at 7pm.
  - Trustee Herrman reported the Constitution Park playground equipment was approved with improved designs.
- Efficiency Report Committee update
  - Supervisor Sloan indicated she plans to start this up again and set up the 1:1's with the resident members. Trustee Herrman's student is reviewing the documents the Township provided.

### **New Business**

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Taubman to accept the FY 2023 Annual Treasurer's Report of the River Forest Township Township Fund and FY 2023 Annual Treasurer's Report of the River Forest Township General Assistance Fund.
  - Roll call was taken. Yeas: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Connolly, Herrman, and Taubman. Nays: none. Absent: Strom. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Announcement of the Next Regular Monthly Meeting**

- The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 6PM.

A motion was made by Trustee Taubman and seconded by Trustee Connolly to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 PM. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Becvar, Clerk