

RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees was called to order on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 by Supervisor Carla Sloan, at 6:04PM. 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, RFCCA 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 Strom to approve the minutes of the September 13, 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

- Assessor Kende updated the webpages with press releases and information regarding tax bills.
- Assessor Kende submitted an e-news for the Village.
- Assessor Kende said that many new contacts were generated for Constant Contact.
- Assessor Kende fielded questions regarding new sale prices and their relationship to a tax bill.
- Assessor Kende sent completion and verification of permits to Cook County.
- Assessor Kende processed Certificates of Error.
- Assessor Kende fielded questions regarding when the Board of Review will open. At this time, we do not know.
- Assessor Kende submitted occupancy certificates.

- Assessor Kende fielded questions and helped many residents in our surrounding Townships including Maywood and Forest Park.

Mental Health Services

Sarah Schwarting

- Sarah reported that Positive Youth Development will be starting Red Ribbon week again this year, starting the week of Oct 24th with Red Ribbons around Oak Park and River Forest to remind kids to live a drug free life
- Sarah said that Hephzibah Group home for children ages 5-11 had extensive renovations done. She and Carla were able to see these and meet with Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets. They let her know about River Forest's Preferred For Care program. Carey Carlock at Mosaic Counseling and Gail Shelton, Director of Family Support at New Moms, are also both aware of this program.
- Sarah reported that the I/DD consortium met at the end of September and as a result of the They Deserve More initiative and United Cerebral Palsy/Seguin meeting with legislators, families are now once again moving off the PUNS list.
- Sarah stated that the HUB is running trainings which are being well attended by us and our agencies. She is also looking at the HUB as an administrator to make sure all of our agencies have claimed all the programs that they are able to.
- Sarah said that Sibshops is starting again this coming weekend at Thrive counseling center and running every Saturday until mid-December. Supervisor Sloan added that Thrive has hired someone new who is now trained to run Sibshops. The program starts this Saturday, 10/22. Thrive has done a better marketing push. Mike Carmody is still helping as an additional facilitator. Instead of twice a month, Sibshops will start later and be held every week for 6 weeks.
- Sarah said the Opioid Taskforce is meeting regularly with her to decide on how to run the Opioid overdose awareness day next August 31st. Kelly O'Connor of Positive Youth Development is looking into Dominican University as a possible venue. Sarah has started to work on entertainment by reaching out to Daryl Stuermer, the lead guitarist for Phil Collins.
- Sarah stated that the IPLAN is still working on hosting an implementation meeting.
- Sarah reported that Q2 data for the agencies is slowly trickling in.
- Sarah is part of the OPRF High School mental wellness collaborative meetings. The next Parent University will be virtual on November 10th at 6:30pm.

- Sarah attended the NAMI family summit this past Sunday. It was fairly well attended by about 30 people.
- Sarah said that OPRF High School is having a resource fair in partnership with D97 and Oak Park Community Mental Health Board on Tues Nov 1st from 6-7:30 at OPRF.
- With regards to the Mental Health Committee, Melinda Peterson has become a volunteer at the NAMI Metro Suburban drop-in center; Jean Meister attended the NAMI family summit for FRED and got two new members for their email group; Kathryn Schmahl is the new mental health committee secretary.

General Assistance

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan said that we now have two clients. She has organized our three past GA clients to participate in HFGB, both for Thanksgiving grocery gift cards and holiday gifts. April Dugal makes sure that our current GA clients participate.
- Supervisor Sloan stated that regarding HFGB, the new team is up and running in our office space, and our staff reports that things are going smoothly.

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Betsy Kelly

- Betsy continues to help with meals on Tuesdays and sending Community Connect Mail and River Forest Emails.
- Betsy will be meeting with Vanessa about adding a Homesharing option to the Senior Section of the website.
- Betsy said that a new member of the Senior Services Committee will be voted on during this meeting: Briselda Gijkondi, a Dominican Student.
- Betsy is preparing for her senior housing talk for the Township in Springfield. She met with Ruth Reko and Tony Roeder earlier today to discuss their joint presentation. Betsy will give her portion of the presentation to Sarah's Mental Health Committee on Nov. 1.
- Betsy met with Jennifer Settle who works for Opticos, the group that coined the term "Missing Middle Housing." Jennifer Settle gave Betsy information and brochures to pass out at the Springfield conference. Betsy also ordered a bunch of booklets from AARP. Betsy will work with Jennifer Settle on a possible tour in Oak Park and River Forest in the spring.
- Betsy is finalizing the Homesharing forms. She needs to start more targeted outreach. She would like to post in bulletins at churches and do a bulk mailing.
- Betsy spoke at 1010 Harlem on October 13th with Paula Bush from NW Housing Partnership and Mary Anne Ojeda from OPRF Township about Services and

Programming. Eight people came.

- Betsy reported that the Mahjong sessions continue. An experienced group of 4 is coming in on Wednesdays now in the same room as Bridge Players. On Thursdays, we also Mahjong Lessons from 1-3pm taught by Liz Ziehl. She has held three classes so far with 6-8 people coming.
- Betsy said that Elevate PT came to the last Coffee Monday and did Fall Risk Assessments. Lydia Manning and Ruth Reko will come in November to talk about Dementia Friendly and Age Friendly River Forest.
- Betsy reached out to a woman who does the Silver Sneaker Program at Oak Street Health to see if she could possibly teach a class at the Township. They will revisit the possibility in early 2023.
- Betsy reported that the headphones program is on hold because the sites to download songs are no longer user friendly/cooperative and the headphones are poor quality and not always working up to par.
- Betsy also reported that Circle of Friends is on hold for now as it turned into more of a newcomer group similar to what is already in place in the area.

Youth and Family Services

Carla Sloan and Trustee Herrman

- Supervisor Sloan announced that the Youth Engagement IGA was signed by all 9 entities funding it.
- Supervisor Sloan reported that Girls on the Rise is a success at Roosevelt Middle School. The program will be launched at Willard soon.
- Trustee Herrman announced that the Youth Services Committee will soon be sending out RFPs to their list of former grantees. The typical grant range is \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- Trustee Herrman confirmed that the age range of youth helped by the Youth Services Committee will be expanded to include the services of PING and Wonder Works Children's Museum.
- Trustee Herrman reported that ISearch has not contacted the committee to do visits.

Supervisor's Report

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan participated in focus groups for the River Forest Public Library strategic plan.

- Supervisor Sloan said the Townships of Cook County Supervisor Division meets This Thursday evening at Maine Township. The guest speaker will be Supervisor Cheri Neal who will talk about the efficiency study Zion Township did in 2016.
- Supervisor Sloan will be going to Springfield to the TOI conference with Sarah to support Betsy's senior housing panel. River Forest resident Ruth Reko will be there with Betsy.

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 October 31, 2022 in the amount of \$41,114.15.

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 met with Hutchinson Associates to review work to date and establish a plan to complete the website before the end of 2022. The Assessor Primary and Secondary Pages are now built and complete. Some news items will need to be updated by me before we go live in January 2023. Vanessa Druckman just submitted the Senior Secondary Pages to Hutchinson Associates to begin their build but they can be tweaked and revised as we move forward. Vanessa Druckman is hoping to submit the copy for the Mental Health Secondary Pages to Hutchinson Associates before the end of the week. Vanessa Druckman identified pages from the current website where copy will remain the same and shared those with Hutchinson Associates. Vanessa Druckman still needs to draft the youth services pages. She also needs to draft a few new pages for the resident services portion of website including FOIA, medical equipment and lending library, temporary handicapped parking placard, notary public, grant funding, financial assistance.
- Trustee Taubman said the Collaboration Sub-Committee did meet but she did not have the meeting notes with her to share. She will provide an update at the November meeting.
- Supervisor Sloan is reviewing the new vision statement this month.
- Trustee Strom reported that he attended the Tour de Proviso Event Bike Ride. 400 riders participated.

New Business

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve Briselda Gjikondi as a new member of the Senior Services Committee. Trustee Strom 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 reminded the trustees that the 2023 levy will be proposed during the November meeting. Discussion ensued.

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 6:54pm. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Druckman, Clerk