

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 16th, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Monday, March 16th, 2015 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called:

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Anna Romeo, Veronica Belmonte, and Mary O'Brien

Absent: Mark Kelty

Also present: Clerk Karen Taubman, Assessor Kende, Mental Health/GA Administrator Rudner, Attorney Deady, and RFCC Executive Director Dick Chappell

Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2015 regular meeting. Trustee Belmonte seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

- none

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- We are still filing senior exemption and disability renewal forms.
- New Sidwell maps have been received.
- Assessor Kende requested Township hours be posted on the website.
- Per the exemption numbers, there are 600 senior single family homes and 200 senior condos. This does not represent all seniors, as not all have applied for the exemption.

Mental Health Committee (MHC)/General Assistance (GA)

Avis Rudner

- Ms. Rudner distributed the new Mental Health Services Directory, which will be mailed to River Forest residents. It will also be available at Village Hall, schools, library, and on our website.
- The MHC completed its funding recommendations of \$130,000 for the new fiscal year: \$31,800 for mental health, \$71,700 for developmental disabilities, \$16,000 education outreach, \$7,000 prevention, and \$3,500 for other programs. There are 4 new programs including: Infant Welfare, Sarah's Inn for community outreach, Thrive for a suspension reduction program, and Prevail for a technology grant.
- The PIAT (Piecing It All Together) Conference will be at Dominican (Priory Campus) on Saturday, March 21st. Supervisor Sloan will be making welcome remarks.
- We continue to plan the upcoming Sibshop; we anticipate the program beginning in April, continuing through June. Families have already expressed interest in the program.
- We have one current GA recipient; the individual will be utilizing Prevail's job readiness program.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- The River Forest Township is now a member of the Success for all Youth (SAY) steering committee. Supervisor Sloan distributed the mission statement of the organization. SAY is part of the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation.
- The YSC committee met on March 4th, voting on their recommendations for the fiscal 2016 programming. To summarize, they voted to fund the two River Forest programs: I-Search and the RFPL after school programming. They also voted to fund 3 new joint programs this year: the IMP.A.C.T. Snowflake program at RMS, a robotics/STEM related program at Concordia, and lastly a Steckman

Drumming & Dance program for at risk youth. Trustees and Supervisor Sloan discussed the value and success of the Steckman program for Oak Park youth; however, as the grant is written, it does not target River Forest youth. As a result, Trustees decided against funding the grant. However, if there are River Forest youth who want to participate in the program, we will fund them through financial assistance scholarship funds.

- River Forest members of the YSC have expressed interest in expanding their efforts beyond that of the joint committee with Oak Park. They feel there are youth needs here in River Forest which could be assessed, identified, and met – such as Friday night activities. Trustees discussed members surveying other local communities.
- White Paper report is expected to be finished by the end of March.

Senior Services

Carla Sloan

- The Senior Committee meets this week on March 18th.
- Plans for Celebrating Seniors Week are in going well, over 45 programs are planned, a number of them at the RFCCA. There are over 100 nominations for the 60 over 60 honorees.
- Supervisor Sloan will begin having Senior Office Hours on Wednesday's from 1p-3p.
- Supervisor Sloan is meeting on March 31st with Eric Palm and (and Desiree Scully of Senior Services) to discuss developing a snow removal program for seniors. Trustees had numerous questions about a potential program, including cost of program, liability, sustainability of volunteers. Supervisor Sloan will report back to trustees at the next monthly meeting.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan

- As of March 1st, the Township has added Village Hall as a second distribution point for temporary handicapped parking placards and cab coupon booklets for seniors and the disabled.
- Supervisor Sloan attended the State of the Villages event sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Village Presidents Cathy Adduci (River Forest), Anan Abu-Taleb (Oak Park), Tim Gillian (Forest Park) all spoke, answering pre-determined questions.
- Supervisor Sloan met recently with village trustee candidates Richard Cooke and Rick Gillis, to share information about the Township. Previously she has met with other village trustee candidates at various times.
- Trustees received information on upcoming fundraising events for: Prevail (April 16th) and Thrive (May 2nd). She also distributed information about the Live & Give Survey. The Community Foundation is researching people's giving habits and philosophy in order to better support our local charities.
- Trustee Belmonte attended the COG meeting, highlights include:
 - Village President Cathy Adduci suggested a meeting of local government and members of COG, to discuss and consider how to more effectively collaborate and share information.
 - The D90 5-year strategic plan will be completed by May. There are new resident-friendly documents from Illinois Educational Finance is on the website. Lincoln School will undergo a second floor addition this summer. PARCC testing will replace the ISAT for students.
 - RFPD launched their new website. Their summer camp brochure is available. A lighting/path capital improvement project will occur at Priory Park.
 - RF Library created a 501(c)(3) for capital improvements.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for March 2015 in the amount of \$35,002.01. See enclosure. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, Belmonte, O'Brien
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Carla Sloan

- Supervisor Sloan presented trustees the Services Agreement between the RFCC and the River Forest Township to include front end services, bookkeeping, and IT/server. She thanked everyone for their valuable input from the original draft provided in February. Upon approval, Dick Chappell will give to the RFCC Board for their final approval.
 - Trustee Romeo made a motion approve the Service Agreement in substance between the RFCC and the Township; however, if there are administrative types of changes, the Trustees give Supervisor Sloan the authority to make these changes on behalf of trustees. See enclosure. Trustee Belmonte seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, Belmonte, O'Brien
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Trustee Romeo made a motion approve the Lease Agreement between the River Forest Civic Center Authority (RFCCA) and the Township. See enclosure. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, Belmonte, O'Brien
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Senior Outreach Coordinator position job description is being developed.
- Supervisor Sloan is meeting with a local website developer. A simplified RFP will be sent out to several developers, including our current provider.

New Business

Carla Sloan

- Trustee Belmonte made a motion approve the agenda for the River Forest Township Annual Meeting on April 14th at 6:30pm. See enclosure. Trustee O'Brien seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Romeo, Belmonte, O'Brien
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Taglia & Associates has resigned our account (for annual audit), due to increased regulations. Supervisor Sloan will send a RFP to several local firms, in consideration of firms used by other River Forest governmental agencies.
- The village-wide meeting mentioned by President Adduci has been slated for May 27th. The idea is for all boards to attend. Sloan asked trustees to set aside this date on their calendars. Trustees asked the purpose of the meeting and desired outcome of the meeting.
- Trustee Belmonte made a motion to Proclaim May as Celebrating Seniors month. Trustee Romeo seconded. All in favor; the motion passed unanimously.
- The Township will again be marching in the Memorial Day Parade; plans are similar to last year with using a senior bus.

No executive session was held, all items will be held until April.

Trustee Romeo made a motion to adjourn at 8: 05 pm. Trustee Belmonte seconded, the motion was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned immediately.

The Annual meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, April 14th at 6:30, followed immediately by the next regular meeting of the River Forest Township.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Taubman, Clerk