

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Monday, October 19, 2015 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 5:01p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called:

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Mary O'Brien, Anna Romeo, and Mark Kelty. Helene Connolly arrived at 5:10 p.m.

Absent: none

Also present: Senior Services Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, Mental Health/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, Clerk Karen Taubman, Dick Chappell, Assessor Pamela Kende, Holly Economos, and Gary Cuneen

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular September 15, 2015 meeting, Trustee Kelty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

- Gary Cuneen, the Founder and Executive Director of Seven Generations Ahead (an Oak Park non-profit for environmental sustainability and healthy communities) and Director of Planet Green (an environmental sustainability project of the OPRF Community Foundation), provided trustees with an updated assessment of the OPRF Environmental Sustainability Plan. In 2010-2011, Planet Green initiated a community engagement process to create the OPRF Environmental Sustainability Plan. The 10 year plan was released in June 2011, so it is now in its 4th year. Cuneen provided trustees the latest assessment, which measured 9 sustainability trends to include usage and goals in the following areas: energy, transportation, education, waste, water, food, community development, green economy, and open space & ecosystems. Highlights included the good scores received by: energy, education, and water.

Assessor

Pamela Kende

- Senior exemptions and permits continue to be processed.
- Kende continues to monitor the current Illinois Homeowners Exemption, which is likely to be adjusted through the budget process in Springfield.
- Kende attended the Cook County Assessor Officers Association meeting this month.
- The office continues to receive phone calls from individuals interested in purchasing real estate, looking to confirm estimated property tax bills.

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

Avis Rudner

- Rudner distributed to trustees a flyer on The Walking Man, a free community movie event on Saturday, November 7th at the Lake Theatre at 10 a.m. A discussion group will gather afterwards.
- The Township will be a sponsor of the PIAT conference on March 19th, at Brooks Middle School in Oak Park.
- The LemonAid Stand, raised over \$34,000 for two local charities (NAMI and PACTT).
- The MHC continues to discuss a Suicide Prevention Program, including a possibility of a local walk to raise money and awareness.
- We presently have no General Assistance clients, but continue to field phone calls and have an applicant completing paperwork.
- Supervisor Sloan brought up additional topics, to include:

- The Township is supporting the potential launch of Ending the Silence, a NAMI program, at Roosevelt Middle School (RMS). Ending the Silence is already offered at OPRF and OP middle schools.
- Supervisor Sloan attended a MHC resource fair at Riveredge Hospital, with the intention of promoting SibShops, but also found it to be a great networking opportunity.
- The SibShop program has 18 local children registered for the fall programming, about half each from River Forest and Oak Park.

Senior Services

Cathaleen Roach

- The Township is partnering with the River Forest Fire Department, to provide a canister or container for seniors to put in their vital information to be kept in the freezer with a star sticker on the freezer, so paramedics know to go there for detailed medical information.
- With the River Forest Library, we are planning our Celebrating Seniors All Year Long programming for the next 6-7 months.
- Roach distributed a written summary of partnerships, programming, and activities she is participating in to help promote the Township Senior Services.
- Sloan passed out to Trustees information on River Forest's livability rating for seniors in River Forest. River Forest has been given a 51 score, Oak Park 54, and the nationwide high is 65. It has seven measurements, with one of our greatest challenges being affordable housing and social & civic engagement. Sloan felt the Township could make a difference for seniors in social & civic engagement.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan.

- Mentoring training, newly required for all grantees, was held on October 7th with John Williams of OP Township providing the leadership.
- The River Forest Park District is introducing a Friday night program for junior high school students, to be held at RMS. The Township will participate in the program; the RFPD will send a proposal to Sloan for trustees to consider.
- Dr. Bakahia Madison, IMP.A.C.T.'s newly hired Program Director/Coalition Coordinator, has begun working in Township offices. The community coalition, led by IMP.A.C.T., met on September 28th at the RFCC. Dr. Madison and Ron Orzel (IMP.A.C.T. Board Chair) will attend the Township January 2016 meeting to discuss their mission and strategies.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan

- The collaboration sub-committee, with a representative of all of the River Forest public entities, will meet on October 27th. Trustee Romeo is unable to attend, so Trustee Connolly will represent the Township. Sloan will attend the first meeting with Connolly.
- Sloan attended the Council of Government (COG) October meeting, highlights included:
 - District 200 is going forward to plans for a pool to be built in the site of the parking garage; they are hopeful a referendum is unnecessary.
 - District 200 is expected to grow by 600 students
 - District 200 has added additional college counselors
 - Concordia has its highest enrollment; Dominican had its biggest freshman class. An increase in commuters is creating parking problems.
 - Triton opened its state of the art Health & Sciences Center, along with a Veteran's Resource Center.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Romeo made a motion to approve bills for October 31, 2015 in the amount of \$14,274.76. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Kelty, O'Brien, Romeo and Connolly
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

- Trustee O'Brien made a motion to General Assistance for October 31, 2015 in the amount of \$407.54. See enclosure. Trustee Kelty seconded. Roll called.
Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Kelty, O'Brien, Romeo, and Connolly
Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Carla Sloan

- none

New Business

Carla Sloan

- none

No executive session was held, minutes will be held for a future meeting.

Trustee O'Brien made a motion to adjourn at 5:44 p.m. Trustee Kelty seconded, the motion was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned immediately.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Taubman, Clerk