

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, October 17 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll called

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Karen Taubman, Mark Kelty and Helene Connolly. Not present: Trustee Holly Economos.

Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, MH/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, Assessor Pamela Kende, Senior Services Committee Chair Judy A. Smith, and RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell.

Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular September 19, 2017 meeting, Supervisor Sloan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation -- None

Reports

Assessor

Pamela Kende

There has been an increase in questions from residents regarding what their expected tax bill will be next year due to the reassessment, as well as questions regarding new sale prices and their relationship to a tax bill.

The Assessor conducted completion and verification of permits sent to Cook County. In addition, the Assessor processed Certificates of Error; attended a Cook County Township Assessor Association meeting; helped residents with re-review questions for the Board of Review appeals; fielded questions regarding when the Board of Review will announce their results; and completed continuing education course work for the year.

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

Avis Rudner

- Guest Lynn Rivero, Suburban Access Development Disabilities (DD) program manager, briefed the Committee on its operations. The agency is the gatekeeper for residents needing DD services from service providers.
- On October 5, Carla and Avis attended the Youth and Behavioral Health Consortium meeting. A wide range of topics was covered, including the Community Health Needs Assessment. The next meeting is a breakfast co-sponsored by River Forest Township in January.
- River Forest Township Holiday Food Gift Basket Program has completed its referral forms. Food gift cards for recipients will be distributed before Thanksgiving. Holiday presents will be delivered in early December.

- There is one GA client.

Youth Services Committee (YSC)

Carla Sloan

- The Youth Services Committee has met the last two Wednesday nights in October. Led by Sarah Mayeda, the Committee has redefined its mission statement and purpose, as it relates to its grant funding goals and process. The YSC is choosing to focus its relatively small funding resources toward youth at the transitional points, which mostly focuses on the critical middle school years—the entry time into middle school and the entry time into high school. Carla read the mission statement which was included in the meeting packets.
- Two River Forest members of the committee have resigned, Anna Schaidler and Amy Hansmann, who each served four years. The Township thanked them for their time and dedication. There are now five River Forest vacancies on the committee. The remaining three intend to stay on.
- The Youth Interventionist Program with three new interventionists is also refocusing on the middle school population. They have started a girls group at Roosevelt, are working with the River Forest Girl Scouts, and are spending more time at the River Forest Library in the after school program. They are increasing their caseloads to fifteen each. The YIP program is up for renewal next June with the eleven taxing bodies.
- The alcohol prevention grant effort will be called Positive Youth Development going forward. A handout of the new logo, worked on with Matt Baron, was included in the meeting packet. Aimee Bates has been hired as the new grant coordinator for this program. Carla provided the link and asked everyone to fill out the survey being done by the Community Committee, which will help inform the alcohol prevention communications campaign for the community at large.
- Oak Park-River Forest did not get the federal drug-free communities grant which would have added other substances in addition to alcohol to the prevention grant.
- Carla talked about the November IMPACT parent educational forum which we are sponsoring, ‘Sex, Drugs & Snapchat, Learn How to Encourage Your Kids to Make Healthy Choices’ presented by award-winning author and speaker Carrie Goldman, to be held November 8 at the high school.
- Carla will be meeting with Ron Orzel and Bakahia Madison from IMPACT in early November to determine if and how the Township will still be funding IMPACT projects now that Bakahia is no longer the Director but is a board member.

Senior Services Committee Chair

Judy Smith

- Judy spoke about the new Reach Out Action Plan for Neighbors, a block by block program for seniors to help each other. The Committee put together a brochure which was included in the packet. Judy also mentioned a simple survey that has been developed to measure senior residents’ knowledge about their neighbors before the program starts, to be followed up with a resurvey in six to twelve months to see the impact of the program. The Committee is also preparing orientation materials to give to the handful of people willing to take part in piloting the program.
- The original 311 resource line project has now has two parts. A larger call center type program that covers many community services and resources is being studied for the future. In the meantime, a program make the older adult experience in the community better is being developed to include an internet accessible directory of community resources, as well as a community calendar including older adult programs of the townships, park districts and libraries..

Senior Outreach Coordinator

Cathaleen Roach

- Programs with the RF Library:
The Connect With Tech program is refurbished following productive focus group meetings and doing well with increased attendance at Wednesday sessions.
The Coffee Monday attendees warmly received Abby Schmelling's talk on genealogy on Monday, October 2. It was the largest attendance so far since the inception of Coffee Monday.
The Fall Celebrating Seniors All Year Long programming includes October's presentations on Princess Diana and Tea 101, the Thursday, October 19 program Fall Floral Arranging, and upcoming in November, True Crime Stories.
- Brain health Initiative programming: Publicity and outreach for the Brain Health Initiative is continuing. The first of three events is a talk on October 28 by the Alzheimer's Association on *Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from Latest Research*.
- April 26-May 2, 2018 are the dates for the next Celebrating Seniors Week.
- Wednesday evening, October 18, will be the quarterly meeting of the Senior Services Committee at Oak Park Township offices. Judy Smith will present on the two projects of the subcommittee: The calendar and the Reach Out program.
- Outreach continues for the two relevant and helpful resource programs: SHIP (Senior Health Insurance program), a free by-appointment counselling service to help local seniors with Open Enrollment for Medicare and Medicare Supplement decisions; and Disability and Aging Resource, free counselling service for River Forest residents twice monthly at the local River Forest Medical Center on Lake Street.
- Cathaleen is researching new programming, including a senior dance class, Movement as Medicine, on Saturday, October 14 in Northfield, where she discussed programming options with the class leader.

Supervisor's Comments

Carla Sloan.

- Sibshops started September 30. There were ten kids and the feedback was very positive from both families who were trying the Sibshop and the facilitators. Fourteen kids are signed up for the October 21 session. We had a front page article in the Wednesday Journal which received positive feedback.
- The two LOSS (Loss of Loved Ones to Suicide) groups have started up, one for adults and one for teens. The teen group will have its second meeting this week, and the adult group started on Monday, October 18 with six. We continue to work on the outreach for these groups.
- Carla gave a legislation update. With the Townships of Cook County (TOCC) Board, she met with the Metro Township Association (MTA) Board on October 4; the two groups agreed to work together more on the joint spring conference and on lobbying efforts.
- Carla attended the Housing Forward ribbon cutting for their new offices on Roosevelt Road. Housing Forward operations are now divided between the Oak Park and Maywood offices. Oak Park offers services, formerly part of Prevail and now part of Entry Point, for those who are at risk of becoming homeless. The Maywood office serves those who are already experiencing homelessness.
- The Annual Financial Report and Audit were filed with the Illinois Comptroller.
- The color copier has been delivered and set up.
- Karen Taubman attended the most recent Council of Governments meeting and gave a report.

Approval of Bills

- Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve bills as of October 31, 2017 totalling \$47,127.96. It was seconded by Trustee Connolly. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Taubman, Connolly and Kelty. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Taubman made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of October 31, 2017 in the amount of \$510.94. It was seconded by Trustee Kelty. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Taubman, Connolly and Kelty. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Carla distributed copies of the Community Health Needs Assessment in hard copy and electronically to the trustees. The data is well laid out and extremely interesting. The executive summary lays out how the assessment was done; pages 68-83 address the problems and risks, goals and strategies.

New Business

Carla Sloan

- The Levy meeting is the first Tuesday in December, this year December 5. Carla stated the CPI for PTELL for the purposes of the Levy is 2.1%. The last two years were .7% and .8%. We have held our levy increases to those CPI levels. We will likely once again hold any levy increase to the CPI. Carla believes that the CPI increase is supported by our increased program activity across our human services areas.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 pm. Trustee Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kelty seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk