

**RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018**

The regular monthly meeting of the RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP Board of Trustees took place on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at the River Forest Civic Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Carla Sloan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll called**

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Trustees Karen Taubman and Holly Economos, and Helene Connolly Also present: Clerk Abby Schmelling, Mental Health/GA Administrator Avis Rudner, Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach, Township Attorney Pat Dedy, and RFCCA Administrator Dick Chappell. Trustee Kelty was on vacation.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2018 meeting was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos. The motion passed.

**Public Participation**

Margaret Rudnik, attending as a guest, was welcomed as an applicant recommended for membership on the Senior Services Committee. She has long experience in hospice and palliative care.

**Reports**

**Assessor**

**Pamela Kende**

February was a busy month with exemptions and appeals;  
River Forest was open for assessment appeals with the Cook County Assessor from February 5th to March 6th;  
We are working with the Cook County Treasurer office to help them with their collection of data for delinquent property tax bills. We mailed notices to a number of our "delinquent" residences letting them know their status;  
Sent out two press releases to the newspaper, Village e-newsletter and updated the Township website; and  
Attended Cook County Township Assessors Association meeting;

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

**Avis Rudner**

- The Mental Health Committee met and passed on recommendations for funding requests for 2018-2019. These recommendations, mostly fee-for-service, were on an Excel spreadsheet and covered by Avis and Carla. Carla explained where there were differences from last year's funding, including a request from Thrive to become a DASA (the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse of DHS for Illinois) licensed funded agency. Both the Mental Health Committee and the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board did not support this added funding for Thrive, but may reconsider funding in the future based on more compelling evidence of need.

- Carla attended the Opioid Task Force meeting to gather data from police, local hospitals, and the state to form the next steps to be taken.
- Sibshops have completed five of the seven sessions, and hope to train more Thrive staff to expand our capabilities in this program.
- For the Text-a-Tip suicide prevention program, school administrators have agreed to rollout the program throughout the schools, doing a soft rollout in May so students have access to the text number and the resource during the summer, with a more aggressive rollout in the fall. The program is working with student groups to give the program a better name and do the logo and artwork. The most challenging part for us is to provide a template for the social workers who answer the texts, which is where we establish the protocol and procedures for referrals.

### **Youth Services Committee (YSC)**

**Carla Sloan**

- Carla attended the Youth Services Committee meeting with further voting on programs for fiscal year 2019, with a final list of recommendations at the April meeting.
- Carla attended the School Committee meeting for IMPACT. There are three large events going on in April for substance prevention: a talk "Up in Smoke: What you need to Know about Teens and Vaping" by Andy Duran, targeted to middle school and high school parents. A second event about having a 'Safe Prom', at L!VE Café; and Rosecrance is doing a program for middle school parents on raising resilient and drug-free kids.

### **Senior Outreach Coordinator**

**Cathaleen Roach**

- Cathaleen spoke about the three parts to our on-going partnership with River Forest Library:

#### Celebrating Seniors All Year Long (CSAYL)

1) Forty-five attended the Sunday February 25th Children's Sunflower Chamber Orchestra Concert at the Library; 2) We hosted a Thursday evening March 8th talk on the Chicago Cubs as Champions, with rare historical film footage; and 3) Last weekend was a Sunday talk on Climate Change with a Chicago State University professor. In April local author Tom Holmes talks about his "The Soul of a Liberal Village."

#### Gather, Discover, Engage

Under this new umbrella, we will continue Coffee Monday, Connect with Tech going from weekly to monthly, and adding a Movie Friday. On March 5th we hosted this month's Coffee Monday with Trustee Karen Taubman who presented, "Tools for a Less Cluttered Life." April's Coffee Monday will be a Book Discussion for Spring Reading.

#### Movement and Memory for Joyful Aging

River Forest Community Center and the Township concluded Session I of the six-weeks Movement and Memory for Joyful Aging program. We will conduct a Session II if we get required six person minimum, beginning Wednesday, March 28. There will also be a free weekly class at Belmont Village on Madison Street in Oak Park by the same instructor.

- Continued Outreach Efforts: Marc Blessoff's Wednesday Journal column on aging gave a short mention to the Township Seniors' office and programming. Cathaleen met with Marc and Elizabeth White, author of Fifty-Five, Unemployed and Faking Normal: Your Guide to a Better Retirement on March 12.

- Cathaleen visited the American Job Center/AARP's 'Back to Work 50+' site located on First Avenue at the Maywood site. We are helping them do local outreach for any local seniors and others who are looking for either full or part-time work. Their coordinator, Laina Krisik, will be the Coffee Monday speaker in June.
- We continue to publicize and support the OPTSS twice-monthly free 'Aging and Disability Resource Consultations' where Oak Park Township care managers are on site in river Forest on Thursdays to explain and enroll our seniors for services like transportation, Meals on Wheels, case management and Chore services.
- Work has been completed for the 2018 Celebrating Seniors Week, April 26-May 3. The 60 over 60 honorees have been selected, pictures taken and interviews done. Five cost-friendly programs will be presented at the River Forest Community Center. The Resource Guide is being completed.
- The CSAYL handout lists the programs through August 2018...
- Pickleball for seniors is up and running with our pickleball time at the Tennis and Fitness Centre in Oak Park, Thursdays at noon. The first week we had three people, the second week seven. Carla is the teacher. Carla has put notices in the Village e-News, TFC newsletter and emails to RF Tennis Club, and the tennis club on Harlem.

### **Supervisor's Comments**

**Carla Sloan.**

- The Trustee Liaisons have been reorganized with Holly on the Mental Health Committee, Karen on the Senior Services Committee, Mark and Holly on the Capital Improvement Committee and Carla on the Youth Services Committee.
- Carla put a River Forest voting map with eight voting precincts with five voting places in the packets.
- Carla presented the communications Collaboration Survey printout which was in the packet. The results were discussed in December. Carla gave an overall summary and will send out an electronic copy. Nothing in the survey was really negative, but the Township needs to work further on getting out its message of services.

### **Approval of Bills**

- Trustee Connolly made a motion to approve bills as of March 31, 2018 totalling \$37,013.04 from the Community Bank Operating Fund. It was seconded by Trustee Taubman. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Taubman, Economos and Connolly. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.
- Trustee Economos made a motion to approve General Assistance bills as of March 31, 2018 in the amount of \$330.47. It was seconded by Trustee Connolly. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Taubman, Connolly and Economos. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Unfinished Business -- None**

### **New Business**

**Carla Sloan**

- A motion to recognize and honor Retired Police Chief Greg Weiss in resolution 2018-02 was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Taubman to approve the 2018 Annual Township Meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

- A motion was made by Trustee Connolly and seconded by Trustee Economos to approve new Senior Services Committee member Margaret Rudnik. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Trustee Economos and seconded by Trustee Connolly of Funding of \$488 for Township/Library Senior Programs: FY 2019 Gather, Discover, Engage Series to support 50% of expense for beverage and cookies/pastries for ten coffee Mondays and eleven Film Lovers Fridays, plus two lunches for Film Lovers Fridays. Roll was called. Ayes: Supervisor Sloan, Trustees Taubman, Connolly and Economos. Nays: None. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the River Forest Township will be on Tuesday, April 10 following the 6:00 pm 2018 Annual Town Meeting in Room 206. Trustee Economos made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. Trustee Connolly seconded, the motion was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Abby Schmelling, Clerk