

**SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**February 6, 2023**

**MINUTES**

A **MEETING** of the Senior Advisory Committee was held at the Downers Grove Township Center located at 4341 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, on Monday, February 6, 2023.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:33pm.
2. **Roundtable Introductions.** Roundtable introductions were made. Following is the meeting attendance:

*Board Members:* Pat Klebenow, Heather Lippe, Robert Petranek, Linda Rush\*, Susan Sinderson, Gaye Wagner, Bruce Wright

*Members:* Paul Coultrap, Mark Davis, Lynn Dralle, Terri Geppner, Lorraine Grimsby, Alice Krampits, Carrie Navins, Karen Spencer, Jillian Spizzirri, Kerry Quirin

*Guests:* Debbie DiPasquale

\*Via phone

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** Upon review, Robert Petranek made a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the December 5, 2022, Senior Advisory Committee Meeting. The Motion to Approve was seconded by Linda Rush. The Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote. Upon review, the January 9, 2023 minutes were corrected to reflect that Downers Grove Township is offering the caregiver support group, not the Village of Downers Grove. Bruce Wright made a Motion to Approve the Corrected Minutes of the January 9, 2023, Senior Advisory Committee meeting. The Motion to Approve was seconded by Robert Petranek. The Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.
4. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
5. **SAC Member Reports.**
  - A. **Chairman's Report.** Gaye Wagner shared that the SAC will continue to discuss ideas from previous meetings, including the December 19, 2022, Board Strategic Planning meeting, and develop a plan of action for 2023. She will select a date for the Board Members to meet again in the coming weeks.
  - B. Heather Lippe reported that the Village of Downers Grove is passing out DGT newsletters in their lobby. They are also including DGT activities in the weekly emails they send out to residents.
  - C. Robert Petranek reported that Friends For Downers Grove Township Seniors will be holding a fundraiser at Pierce Tavern on March 9. It will be from 4:00-close and they will donate 10% of all sales back to FFDGTS. Everyone is encouraged to attend. FFDGTS will be participating in Giving DuPage Days May 1- May 5 to raise money for senior program support.

**D.** Susan Sinderson reported that Community Adult Day Center has been busy and they gave 25 tours in January. They have some part-time attendees, and new volunteers, and are looking for staff members. This year they will hold 1 big fundraiser, a trivia night, on May 13. They anticipate 250 people attending and are looking for sponsors. They are also planning a Savers donation event.

**6. Township Officials Update.**

**A.** Paul Coultrap announced that there is a lot happening at the Township Center in February. He encouraged members to take newsletters to distribute within their networks. He mentioned that attendance is going up for most events and is excited for the coming year, specifically the dementia-friendly focus of the SAC. He would like to see more attendance at Community Dining. Coultrap shared that later this year, a township newsletter will be sent to all households outlining DGT services. Hopefully, this will reach adult children looking for information to help an older loved one. Its purpose is also to share essential services, such as Dial-A-Ride, and promote township events. He asked for SAC's help in getting the word out about DGT services and events. Discussion was had about doing township events offsite and offering our services at alternative locations throughout the township. Discussion continued about changing the public's perception of the township and showcasing what we do for community members. Coultrap mentioned that DGT has a Youth Services department in which two teachers go to local elementary and middle schools to teach Life Skills lessons on topics such as empathy, stress management, goal setting, and executive functioning skills. A suggestion was made to hold the SAC meetings at different member sites.

**B.** Lorraine Grimsby announced that the Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:30pm on April 18, 2023 at Ashyana Banquets. All voters are encouraged to attend.

**C.** Karen Spencer expressed that DGT is looking for SAC members to help with communicating services and programs to residents. It is appreciated when members cross-promote community information. Spencer asked if any SAC members would be willing to write an article about a senior topic for upcoming newsletters. Spencer shared that Dementia-Friend training would occur following the meeting. Plans to offer Memory Cafes for individuals with dementia and their caregivers are in development. Spencer noted that seniors are enjoying the educational seminars they have attended at DGT. Discussion continued about the need to offer technology programs for seniors, in order to bridge the digital divide. Members shared ideas for technology topics. It was suggested that perhaps high school tutors could be available in the summer to teach sessions. Members also identified scams and identity theft as other program ideas. Additional ideas included a snow shoveling program, intergenerational activities, and cultural programs.

**7. Member Updates.**

**A.** Debbie DiPasquale of AARP announced that she and George Goodwin will be teaching the Safe Driver Class at Downers Grove Township on February 23 and 24, as well as on April 27 and 28. They are teaching additional classes in surrounding communities. She announced that there is a Senior Expo at Drury Lane on March 1, from 10:00-1:00, and the Active Senior Expo will be on March 15 at Lorena's Banquet in Addison. Also, Naperville/Lisle TRIAD will be hosting CarFit Clinics on May 13 and October 14.

**B.** Alice Krampits shared that the Westmont Park District is offering tax assistance, through AARP and appointments are filling fast. WPD is hosting an art show on March 19. She is also offering a "Singing for Fun" program in March.

**C.** Mark Davis announced that the Westmont Chamber of Commerce Senior Resource Group is hosting a Senior Expo on May 4 from 5:30-7:00 pm and on May 5 from 8:30-11:00 am. It will be held at the Westmont Park District. Please spread the word to community members.

**D.** Jillian Spizzirri shared that seniors from the Community House recently had an enjoyable outing to the Chicago History Museum. TCH is hosting a "Love is Brewing" beer tasting, appetizers, and music event on February 16. In March they will host an "Unsinkable Molly Brown/Titanic" event. She is looking to develop collaborations with Special Recreations Associations. Spizzirri reminded attendees that TCH has spaces available for rentals.

**E.** Lynn Dralle announced that the Westmont Fire Department is hosting a 5 week Fire Academy from April 12-May 10. The public is invited to participate in activities to learn how the fire department works. She also mentioned that the Netflix show Trafficked, episode 1, was an interesting episode on scams.

**F.** Carrie Navins shared that "The Scoop" newsletter will be available on March 1 and that seniors from her group are wanting to participate in activities and programs are filling up.

**G.** Kerry Quirin shared that she is busy helping seniors explore senior living options.

**8. Adjournment.**

A motion to adjourn was made by Alice Krampits and seconded by Pat Klebenow. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Spencer

