

Downers Grove Township
SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 4, 2024

MINUTES

A MEETING of the Downers Grove Township Senior Advisory Committee was held at the Downers Grove Township building, 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515, on Monday, March 4, 2024.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.
2. **Roundtable Introductions.** Roundtable introductions were made. Following is the meeting attendance:

Board Members: Janet Garreau, Pat Klebenow, Heather Lippe, Linda Rush, Susan Sinderson, Gaye Wagner, and Bruce Wright.

Members: Sarah Behrens, Angela Bentsen, Lauren Beyer, Paul Coultrap, Julie Cramer, Mark Davis, Deb DiPasquale, Mary Ferguson, Terri Geppner, Tony Kermend, Alice Krampits, Julie Larson, LaVon Lenaway, Claire Nass, Robert Petranek, Yvette Perez Pleimling, Kerri Quirin, Jillian Spizzirri, Ralph Stompanato, Cassie Vanderklok, and Shanel Wiley.

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** A Motion to Approve the Minutes of the February 5, 2024 Meeting was made by Linda Rush and seconded by Susan Sinderson. After a unanimous voice vote by all Board Members present, the Motion was approved.
4. **Public Comment.** Mark Davis announced that the Senior Resource Committee of the Westmont Chamber of Commerce (of which he is a member) will be hosting a Senior Services Networking Event at the Township Senior Center on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, from 5:00-6:30pm. Davis invited all to attend this networking opportunity.
5. **SAC Member Updates.**
 - A. DuPage County Sheriff Tony Kermend reported that the DuPage County Sheriff's Office is working with the DuPage County Senior Citizen's Council to distribute frozen meals to senior residents of DuPage County. The event is held approximately once a month at the County Building in Wheaton.
 - B. Jillian Spizzirri of The Community House announced a Senior Service Resource Fair to be held on April 16 at The Community House. All interested vendors should contact Jillian for more information.
 - C. Robert Petranek of FFDGTS announced the next fundraiser on February 29 at 3 Corners Restaurant in Downers Grove. FFDGTS also expects to hold a fundraiser at Pierce Tavern but does not have a date currently.
 - D. Janet Garreau of Interfaith Community Partners announced that the organization will be changing its name. Also, to date, ICP has clients and volunteers in Downers Grove, Darien, and Westmont, but is still in need of additional volunteers.

6. Township Officials Update

- A.** Supervisor Paul Coultrap reminded the Committee that Downers Grove Township has a medical equipment lending closet which currently houses wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and shower chairs. Coultrap also reminded the Committee that the Township processes passport applications.
- B.** Sarah Behrens indicated that the Senior Center has been quite busy, with approximately 2,500 Senior Center activity check-ins since January 1. Many Senior Center activities have wait lists. The Senior Center will be closed to activities on March 19 since it will be serving as a Polling Place. Because of the limited parking and meeting space, the Senior Center is considering renting outside space for socials. Finally, Downers Grove Township has been ordering approximately 2000 newsletters each month.

7. Focus Area Discussion. Heather Lippe, Social Worker for the Village of Downers Grove, presented a referral program analysis, summarizing various categories of assistance given by the Village.

8. Member and Guest Updates.

- A.** Board Member Pat Klebenow reported that interested persons can sign up for home title protection service on the County website. This service will protect homeowners against someone else taking title to their home.
 - B.** Officer Tony Kermend from DuPage County Sheriff recommended signing up for Credit Karma, a service that will allow one to check their credit, at no cost, every day.
 - C.** Susan Sinderson knows someone who is a cybersecurity expert and is willing to come to an SAC meeting for a presentation.
 - D.** Julie Larson of DuPage County Senior Services announced that the County is out of funds for their senior transit program. However, they still have a ride program open which is income-based and can only be used for medical appointments. Larson further stated that the County has several LIHEAP appointments still open.
- 9. Adjournment.** Upon a Motion to Adjourn made by Janet Garreau and seconded by Pat Klebenow, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by Susan R. Mistretta