

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 1, 2019
MINUTES

A MEETING of the Senior Advisory Committee was held on Monday, April 1, 2019, at the offices of Downers Grove Township, 4340 Prince Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Gaye Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:33pm.

2. Roundtable Introductions

Roundtable introductions were made by all present. Guests at the Meeting included Glenn Gentile, a Downers Grove resident interested in becoming a member of the Council and lending it his IT expertise, Janet Garreau, Executive Director of Interfaith Community Partners, and Beth Courtney, Owner of Touching Hearts at Home. Attached to these Minutes is the Sign-In sheet for the Meeting.

3. Review/Approve Minutes

Chairperson Gaye Wagner asked all present to review the Minutes of the March 4, 2019 Meeting. Upon review, it was noted that the Minutes required the following three changes: (1) on page 1, paragraph 8, line 3, the word "private" should be changed to "volunteer", (2) on the same page and paragraph, line 4, the word "Board" should be added to precede the word "member" and the words "and Secretary" should be added after the word "member", and (3) on page 2, paragraph 2, line 4, the words "if flying domestically" should be added after "October, 2020". Alice Krampits made a motion to approve said Minutes, as amended, and was seconded by Pat Klebenow. A unanimous voice vote approved said Minutes.

4. Committee Reports

Chairperson Wagner drew the Committee's attention to the new Agenda form. Henceforth, the Minutes of the Meeting will adopt the same format as the Agenda.

There was no Chair/Co-Chair report.

Karen Kelly, Township Trustee, asked all Committee members to furnish her with any Committee highlights and/or accomplishments from the past year. She would like to include same in her report to be given at the Annual Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at Ashyana Banquets in Downers Grove.

Lorraine Grimsby, Township Clerk, urged all Committee members to attend the Annual Town Meeting.

Cathy Rager was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, so there was no Secretary's Report.

Susan Mistretta, Assistant to Deputy Township Supervisor, gave an overview of the 2018 Dial-A-Ride Annual Report she prepared. Noting the approximately ten percent downturn in

ridership between 2017 and 2018, the Council supposed reasons such as the recent polar vortex as a reason for the decrease. Also noteworthy was the decrease in dialysis patients using Dial-A-Ride. Susan will endeavor to provide more information in her next report.

George Goodwin from AARP gave a report on the recent Senior Driving Class held at the Township on March 9, 2019. He had a full-to-capacity class and it seemed to be comprised mostly of “younger” seniors. He said the class was very successful. Since the Downers Grove Township class is currently the only one-day class in DuPage County, George is attempting to arrange other one-day classes. Ultimately, he hopes to host one-day classes every other month.

Robert Petranek, chairperson for the Speaker’s Bureau, gave an overview of the next Senior Survival Series, scheduled for May 16, 2019, which will deal with elder care and “Jane’s Journey”, a play dealing with all forms of downsizing.

Mr. Petranek also gave information about an upcoming senior fair, hosted by MORE (Main Street Organization of Realtors), to be held on May 21, 2019 at The Community House in Hinsdale. FFDGTS will have a table there and will also receive a small donation.

5. Village & County Happenings

No Police report was given as Troy Agema was unable to attend the Meeting.

Lynn Dralle, Westmont Fire Department, brought along the new Pocket Pal brochures.

Alice Krampits, Westmont Park District, announced the Spring Senior Fair, to be held on May 3, 2019, from 8:30am to 12:00pm. There will be various speakers, as well as door prizes. Krampits also announced that the Westmont Historical Society will be sponsoring “Wright Brothers, Wrong Story” on April 7, 2019, at 1:00pm at the Senior Center. Reservations are preferred, but drop-ins are also welcome.

Sheri Henderson, Burr Ridge Park District, gave information about the Scarce Program, a recycling program that specializes in accepting items that are deemed “unrecyclable” by other places. Ms. Henderson was very impressed with the Scarce Program and suggested that it be a topic on either Vintage Times or one of the Senior Survival Series. For those interested in recycling anything, the drop-off center is located at 799 Roosevelt Road, Building #2, Glen Ellyn, IL, and is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Julie Larson, DuPage County Senior Services, gave information on the County’s Senior Transportation Grant Program. Under this Program, County seniors are entitled to one free round-trip ride per week to any destination within DuPage County. However, the Program is currently out of funds. They received their grant proceeds in October 2018, and the proceeds were depleted by March 2019. Needy seniors looking for rides for medical purposes only can call Ride DuPage at 630.407.6500 and ask for the Intake Staff.

Ms. Larson also gave details on the Caregiver Support Program, which gives respite to caregivers that are non-family members. The Program was initiated to provide caregiver support in the hope of reducing stress that can cause abuse. Interested persons can call 630.407.6500 and ask for the Intake Staff.

6. Old Business/New Business

It was determined that the Car Care Clinic will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2019, beginning at 8:00am and ending at 10:30am.

7. Presentation/Questions

No representative of The Garden Works Project was present, so a report was not given.

Janet Garreau, of Interfaith Community Partners, gave a presentation on the 501(c)(3) organization and its service. ICP currently works within the boundaries of Lyons Township (Harlem Avenue on the East, Roosevelt Road on the North, Burr Ridge {County Line Road??} on the West, and _____ on the South, and provides rides (to seniors only??) anywhere within those boundaries. The riders must be ambulatory (no wheelchairs). The rides are mostly to medical appointments, where the drivers accompany the rider inside and wait until the appointment is over, but ICP will also transport to grocery stores (and carry in the groceries), hair salons, banks, churches and other errands. ICP drivers operate from 8:00am to 4:00pm. There is no charge for a ride, but donations are requested, and the drivers provide envelopes for said donations. Tips are not allowed. The faith of the rider does not matter, but the driver will ask for a faith affiliation, if applicable, so that ICP can contact them for support. Ms. Garreau left several of her business cards.

ICP is interested in expanding its territory into Downers Grove Township. However, in order to do so, they will need a minimum of ten committed drivers in each of Downers Grove Township’s municipalities. To that end, Ms. Garreau left several flyers asking for volunteers.

8. SAC Member Profile

This new Agenda item was added in the hopes of providing more personal background information on each Committee member. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, we were unable to fulfill this at the current Meeting.

9. Public Comment

At Pat Klebenow’s request, George Goodwin spoke about the Real ID Program being instituted by the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office. As of October 1, 2020, if one does not have a Real ID or a passport, one may not fly, either domestically or internationally. The attached information sheet answers any questions about the program.

10. Adjournment

Upon motion to adjourn made by Pat Klebenow, seconded by Ralph Beardsley, and by unanimous voice vote, the Meeting was adjourned at 2:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Rager, Recording Secretary