

Downers Grove Township
SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 3, 2023

MINUTES

A **MEETING** of the Senior Advisory Committee was held at the Downers Grove Township Center, 4341 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, on Monday, April 3, 2023.

1. **Call to Order.** Karen Spencer called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.

2. **Roundtable Introductions.** Roundtable introductions were made. Following is the meeting attendance:

Board Members: Pat Klebenow, Heather Lippe, Robert Petranek, Lisa Rasin, Susan Sinderson, Bruce Wright

Members: Troy Agema, Angela Bentsen, Debbie DiPasquale, Janet Garreau, Terri Geppner, Julie Larson, Karen Spencer, Jillian Spizzirri

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** Upon review, Janet Garreau made a correction to the March 6, 2023 meeting minutes. The Interfaith Community Partners event on March 29, 2023 should be corrected to note that it is to be attended by various municipal leaders to recruit potential volunteers. A Motion to Approve the Amended Minutes of the March 6, 2023 Senior Advisory Committee Meeting, and was made by Lisa Rasin and seconded by Heather Lippe. The Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

4. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

5. **SAC Member Reports.**

A. Chairman's Report. In Gaye Wagner's absence, Karen Spencer reminded attendees of the SAC Board Members terms of office. Spencer stated that the terms for Wagner, Klebenow, and Wright expire on July 12, 2025. Beardsley and Rasin's terms expire on 7/12/2024. Terms for Petranek, Sinderson, Rush, and Lippe expire on 7/12/2023. Spencer asked that anyone interested in becoming a board member or not wishing to run for reelection communicate their intentions to Wagner or Spencer. A slate of nominations for the four open positions will be presented at the June 5, 2023 meeting and voted upon at the July 10, 2023 meeting.

(ii) Karen Spencer shared an update from the SAC Board Meeting that was held on Friday, March 17, 2023. She reviewed that the committee continues to seek a representative membership and is still looking for representatives from Darien, Clarendon Hills, and Burr Ridge. Robert Petranek shared that he has been in contact with Village of Darien staff and has dropped off the monthly newsletters. He also has dropped newsletters at Meyers Commons housing. Jillian Spizzirri has a contact at Sunrise of Willowbrook that she will share. Heather Lippe will share contacts at Oak Tree Towners and Lacey Creek. Spencer asked if anyone had a contact at I-Care in Westmont. Spencer reiterated that SAC is looking for members with a possible municipal connection and that membership will be by invitation only.

(iii) Spencer reminded SAC members that DGT appreciates help with distributing the monthly newsletter and encouraged attendees to pass out newsletters to their professional circles. The SAC Board will identify members to serve as community liaisons that will be points of contact within each village and to community organizations. A list of contacts will be shared and individuals can identify which groups they have connections with. Spencer asked that committee members also share possible program topics and ideas of possible presenters. Janet Garreau suggested planning events around national theme days.

(iv) Committee members discussed additional ideas for networking with community members. Suggestions included attending Chamber of Commerce meetings, strengthening social media presences, contacting online newspapers, and contacting local businesses who may be interested in getting involved. It was suggested to contact the local Downers Grove magazine to see if an article could be written about Downers Grove Township Senior Services. This idea was well received and generated discussion. Ideas included an interview with a senior center attendee, highlighting DGT partnerships such as FISH, GardenWorks, FFDGTS, D99 STEM project, etc. Spencer asked if any committee members would be interested in helping with this project. Susan Sinderson volunteered and Lisa Rasin offered to make an introduction to the editor.

(v) Spencer shared that the SAC Board would like the focus of SAC meetings to shift more towards getting updates from community liaisons about the needs of community members and direct feedback about the older adults in the Township. Meetings will focus less on member updates. Board Members suggested including case studies at future meetings as well as presentations from members. This was well received by committee members as they felt this might identify holes within the community that SAC could address. Spencer challenged members to prepare for the next meeting by coming ready to share a success they've had with an older adult as well a challenge they've experienced. Members shared examples of recent experiences working with older adults such as how they meet individuals where they're at, ask leading questions, and give options to assist with decision making.

(vi) Spencer asked members if anyone was interested in hosting a SAC Meeting at their place of business. Jillian Spizzirri of The Community House volunteers to host the May 1 SAC meeting. Angela Bentsen and Susan Sinderson volunteered to host future meetings. Spencer reminded attendees that the next meetings will be on June 5 and on July 10, 2023. She noted that the July meeting will be the 2nd Monday of the month, due to the Independence Day holiday.

B. Susan Sinderson announced that the Community Adult Day Center will be hosting a Trivia Night on May 13 at the American Legion. This is a fundraiser and there will be a band, food, and wine pull, etc. Tickets are \$50 each or a table of 10 for \$500. All are encouraged to attend and promote the event. In addition to raising funds, CADC aims to spread awareness about Alzheimer's and dementia. Sinderson stated that the American Legion was great to work with.

C. Robert Petranek announced that Giving DuPage Days will be May 1-May 5. This is a great opportunity to make donations to Friends For Downers Grove Township Seniors. He appreciates everyone's support. FFDGTS is awaiting results from their recent fundraiser at Pierce Tavern. Petranek also shared that FFDGTS is looking for volunteers to help at Rotary Grove Fest, to be held June 22-25 in downtown Downers Grove. Completed three-hour volunteer shifts will earn \$40 each for FFDGTS.

D. **Lisa Rasin** stated that Rotary Grove Fest will be held June 22-25. She encouraged people to sign up to volunteer. Non-Profit groups may have a booth at the event. The FISH Food Pantry is in need of donations of Spam, toilet paper, paper towels, and Kleenex. They are seeing about six new families per week and the number of clients they are serving continues to rise. They have noticed an increase in homeless and immigrant clients. In addition to providing food, FISH also provides financial and utilities assistance. Rasin reminded everyone that the food pantry is open for donations on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:30-10:30am. The pantry is open to clients on Tuesdays between 4:00-6:00pm and Fridays from 8:30-10:30am.

6. Township Officials Update.

Karen Spencer announced that the senior center programs continue to be going well. Seniors in attendance are sharing positive feedback and new individuals are attending. Spencer shared that many community members are looking to volunteer with Downers Grove Township. She asked members to identify organizations in the township that serve older adults that are in need of volunteers, that she could direct them to. Interfaith Community Partners, Community Adult Day Center, Friends For Downers Grove Township Seniors, FISH Food Pantry, DuPage County Community Services (Ombudsman, Money Management program) were mentioned. Spencer shared that DGT is looking for businesses to sponsor events to assist with financial needs. Spencer inquired about the activities of Naperville/Lisle TRIAD. Julie Larson and Angela Bentsen shared about their sub-committees, speakers bureau, online activities, and events such as SHOE Expo, Healthy, Wealthy & Wise, Bingo Jing, Car Care Clinic.

7. Member Updates.

A. **Julie Larson** also encouraged everyone to promote Giving DuPage Days. Larson announced that there were changes to DuPage County's website in the long-term care section and to the resource book. Updates to the housing section are currently being worked on. Larson clarified that there may be SHIP counselors at DuPage County available. She also stated that funds for water assistance are available.

B. **Janet Garreau** shared that Interfaith Community Partners will be thanking their volunteers at an ice cream event during National Volunteer week.

C. **Debbie DiPasquale** announced that there are upcoming AARP Smart Driver classes being held locally, including at Downers Grove Township on April 27 and 28 and again on June 1 and June 2. She shared that there will be a CarFit event in Naperville on May 13. Car Fit technician training will be held on April 25.

D. **Jillian Spizzirri** announced that The Community House is hosting a Walk the Walk event to raise awareness for mental health on May 21. If anyone is interested in having a table at the event, please talk to Jillian.

8. Adjournment. Upon motion made by Pat Klebenow and seconded by Robert Petranek, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 pm. The next meeting will be held on May 1, 2023, at 1:30pm, at The Community House.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Spencer

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOARD MEMBERS AND MEMBERS

Beardsley, Ralph	SAC Vice Chairman
Klebenow, Pat	SAC Board Member
Lippe, Heather	SAC Board Member/Village of Downers Grove Social Worker
Petranek, Robert	SAC Board Member/Coldwell Banker
Rasin, Lisa	SAC Board Member/FISH Pantry
Rush, Linda	SAC Board Member
Sinderson, Susan	SAC Board Member/Community Adult Day Center
Wagner, Gaye	SAC Chairman/Independence 4 Seniors
Wright, Bruce	SAC Board Member
Agema, Troy	DuPage County Sheriff
Bentsen, Angela	Age Guide
Catalano, Connie	Life Transition Specialist
Coultrap, Paul	Downers Grove Township Supervisor
Davis, Mark	Terra Vista Community Living
DiPasquale, Debbie	AARP
Dralle, Lynn	Westmont Fire Department
Garreau, Janet	Interfaith Community Partners
Geppner, Terri	Comfort Keepers
Goodwin, George	AARP
Harris, Marquitta	Indian Prairie Public Library
Krampits, Alice	Westmont Park District
Larson, Julie	DuPage County Senior Services
Mistretta, Susan	Downers Grove Township Senior Services
Navins, Carrie	Village of Willowbrook
Quirin, Kerry	Senior Living Experts
Spencer, Karen	Downers Grove Township Senior Services
Spizzirri, Jillian	The Community House
Stoll, Mary	Downers Grove Township Trustee
Young, Atiya Coleman	Magnolia Senior Living