

Downers Grove Township
SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
June 5, 2023

MINUTES

A MEETING of the Senior Advisory Committee was held at the Township Center, 4341 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, on Monday, June 5, 2023.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:37pm.

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

Board Members: Pat Klebenow, Heather Lippe, Robert Petranek, Lisa Rasin, Linda Rush (via teleconference) Bruce Wright, Gaye Wagner

Members: Angela Bentsen, Paul Coultrap, Debbie DiPasquale (for George Goodwin), Janet Garreau, Tony Kermend, Dustin Kleefisch, Alice Krampits, Julie Larson, Susan Mistretta, Yvette Pleimling, Karen Spencer, Jillian Spizzirri, Cassie Vanderklok, Atiya Coleman Young

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** Upon review, Gaye Wagner asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the May 1, 2023 Meeting. A Motion to Approve was made by Linda Rush and seconded by Robert Petranek. Upon voice vote of the Board Members, the Motion was unanimously carried.

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

5. **SAC Member Reports.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner revisited the subject of Board Member terms. At the July 10, 2023 meeting, Board Members will be voting for four seats: those currently held by Heather Lippe, Robert Petranek, Linda Rush and Susan Sinderson. Those individuals will be seeking re-election and Janet Garreau will also be running for the position. If anyone else is interested in having a Board position, should contact Gaye Wagner as soon as possible. Karen Spencer clarified that Board Member terms are for three years and that if a vacancy is filled, an individual serves until the end of the term.

Gaye Wagner also brought up the subject of a succession plan and would like to have input on that.

Wagner gave a Senior Advisory Committee member update and welcomed new members. She announced that Mary Ferguson, with The Birches, has a new role in community outreach. She will be joining the committee and serving as a Clarendon Hills representative. She also has connections with Dementia Friendly Westmont and the Westmont Chamber Senior Resource Committee. Wagner introduced Dustin Kleefisch as the newest representative from Willowbrook. He is the Director of Parks and Recreation, for the Village of Willowbrook. The previous Director, Carrie Navins, left the position to open her own business, "Karried Away with Carrie", which focuses on senior travel opportunities. Wagner announced that Corporal Tony Kermend is the new liaison officer from the DuPage County Sheriff's Office. On a separate note, the Senior Advisory Committee wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks

to Corporate Troy Agema for all the advice, hard work and professionalism he extended to the SAC. We wish him well in his retirement.

Finally, Wagner brought up the subject of newsletter distribution. At the meeting, a sign-up sheet was made available for people to commit to distributing copies of the monthly newsletter.

6. Township Officials Updates.

A. Paul Coultrap announced that the Township has started a medical lending closet. It will be housed in the basement of the Township Center. Coultrap also indicated that users do not have to be residents of the Township. Further, each piece will be loaned for 90 days, but returns will not be enforced. Committee members expressed satisfaction that this program has been implemented. Susan Sinderson suggested carefully examining the equipment before lending to avoid possible insurance issues.

Coultrap also reported that the new sound system for the Township Center will be installed during the last week of June. Shortly after that, sound absorption equipment will be installed.

Finally, Coultrap announced that the Township will be hosting a Flag Day celebration on Saturday, June 10, 2023, beginning at 11:00am, at the Oak Crest and Oak Hill Cemeteries.

B. Karen Spencer announced that the Secretary of State Mobile Unit will be at the Township on August 3, 2023, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. The services will not include Real ID Cards or road tests. Interested parties must register with the Township as the Secretary of State will not be coming if attendance is less than forty people.

Spencer reviewed the new events being held at the Township Center in June. Furthermore, she indicated that events are filling up quickly and people should be reminded to register for events as soon as possible. Finally, Spencer indicated that she is planning a volunteer event to bring together organizations in need of volunteers with people looking for volunteer opportunities.

7. Member Updates.

A. **Dustin Kleefisch** introduced himself as the new Director of Parks and Recreation, for the Village of Willowbrook

C. **Corporal Tony Kermend** introduced himself as the new liaison officer from the DuPage County Sheriff's Office.

D. Karen Spencer reintroduced **Yvette Pleimling** from Immanuel Residences and **Cassie Vanderklok** from Peace Memorial Manor. The SAC looks forward to their continuing participation.

E. **Debbie DiPasquale** from AARP attended in George Goodwin's place. She said that AARP participated in a CarFit event hosted by Naperville TRIAD on May 13. They will host another CarCare Clinic event on October 14. The Smart Driver courses continue to be popular. George Goodwin said that the best senior event in the area is the Senior Expo, which will be held on July 26 at the Darien Sportsplex. Downers Grove Township will be participating. If anyone is interested in having a table at the Expo, see Debbie for contract forms.

F. **Robert Petranek** expressed a desire for the Township to host a Care Care Clinic, as it has in the past. He indicated that he knows mechanics that are willing to volunteer. Petranek proposed September 16 for a Downers Grove Township Car Care Clinic event. Petranek feels strongly that these events are one of the most important things we do for Downers Grove Township seniors. Karen Spencer asked if anyone on the Senior Advisory Committee was interested in volunteering as a chairperson to plan the event. No one volunteered. Petranek will meet with Paul Coultrap to further discuss the idea of a Car Care Clinic event.

G. **Janet Garreau** announced that Interfaith Community Partners is wanting to provide more rides to older adults in Darien, Downers Grove and Willowbrook. They are in need of more volunteer drivers. They have also committed to work a large number of shifts at the upcoming RotaryGrove Fest.

H. **Lisa Rasin** informed the SAC that the FISH Pantry serviced 100 families during the morning of June 2, 2023. She asked for donations of toilet paper. It was suggested that SAC members bring toilet paper donations to the next meeting. Rasin is also the chairperson of the RotaryGrove Fest, which runs from June 22 to June 25, 2023, and she is looking for volunteers for varying jobs.

I. **Susan Mistretta** gave a public service announcement concerning passports. Currently the return time for routine delivery is 11 and 14 weeks. Expedited passports can be expected to be received in 8 to 11 weeks. Mistretta advised applying for passports the minute one decides to plan a trip.

J. **Julie Larson** announced that the LIHEAP Program is now closed and will reopen in September or October of this year. The LIWAP Program (for water bills) will remain open until August of this year. Due to a lack of funding, the County free transportation program is on hold temporarily. Finally, Larson indicated a need for medical equipment and home repair people.

K. **Heather Lippe** announced that she is getting calls for medical equipment, home repairs and transportation, 60% of which calls are from area seniors.

L. **Jillian Spizzirri** requested advice from the SAC regarding a client she has been dealing with. Spizzirri has noticed a marked change in the woman's behavior, suggesting dementia. Several Board members suggested she immediately contact a family member and give a description of the behavior Spizzirri has been witnessing. A discussion followed.

8. **Presentation.** Due to the lengthy discussion, it was necessary to postpone Angela Bentsen's presentation to the July 10, 2023 meeting.

9. **Motion to Adjourn.** Upon Motion made by Heather Lippe and seconded by Robert Petranek, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Susan R. Mistretta

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
Bentsen, Angela	Age Guide
Catalano, Connie	Life Transition Specialist
Coultrap, Paul	Downers Grove Township Supervisor
Davis, Mark	Terra Vista Community Living
DiPasquale, Debbie	AARP
Ferguson, Mary	The Birches
Garreau, Janet	Interfaith Community Partners
Geppner, Terri	Comfort Keepers
Goodwin, George	AARP
Harris, Marquitta	Indian Prairie Public Library
Kermend, Tony	DuPage County Sheriff's Office
Kleefisch, Dustin	Village of Willowbrook
Krampits, Alice	Westmont Park District
Larson, Julie	DuPage County Senior Services
Mistretta, Susan	Downers Grove Township Senior Services
Pleimling, Yvette	Immanuel Residences
Quirin, Kerry	Senior Living Experts
Spencer, Karen	Downers Grove Township Senior Services
Spizzirri, Jillian	The Community House
Stoll, Mary	Downers Grove Township Trustee
Vanderklok, Cassie	Peace Memorial Manor
Young, Atiya Coleman	Magnolia Senior Living
Zalesiak, Dave	Westmont Fire Department