

TOWNSHIP OF DOWNERS GROVE
SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE/SALT COUNCIL

Minutes --- 7-10-17

Committee members present: Kathy Abbate, Tom Anderson; Ralph Beardsley, Lisa Berg, Floyd Mizener, Robert Petranek, Richard Strang, William Wavak

Also present: George Goodwin, AARP; Julie Larson DuPage County Senior Services, Joan Nichols, DGT, Lori Wrzesinski, Hanna Benioff, DGT

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Thomas Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2. **Approval of new secretary** – The committee voted to approve Carol Anderson as secretary of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, as a non-committee member.

3. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes dated 6/5 were approved as typed.

4. **Dial-A-Ride** – Joan presented figures for March and April 2017 as per attached report. The number of rides is lower than in the previous months despite the reduction of the cost to \$3/ride from \$4/ride.

> George Goodwin mentioned a new program offered by the RTA called Travel Training that provides Travel Trainers who teach individuals with disabilities and older adults how to use CTA, Metra and Pace buses and trains to locations they go to on a regular basis.

> **Brochure distribution** – several committee members offered to distribute Dial-A-Ride brochures to local libraries, park districts, village halls, senior residences, etc.

5. **Friends of Downers Grove Township Seniors** – Lori explained that this is a not-for-profit 501c3 Township committee whose mission is to “foster the independence and well being of older adults” in Downers Grove Township. The group raises funds by various means such as participation in the Rotary Fest, etc. The group raised sufficient funds to enable the reduction of Dial-A-Ride fees from \$4/ride to \$3/ride. The next fundraiser is “Fall Into Romance, An Evening of Wine and Music” on Thursday September 14, 5:30 – 7:30pm at J. Fleming’s 18 N. Cass Avenue, Westmont. Sponsorships of different levels are available. All are invited to come and bring guests. Brochure is attached.

6. **Vintage Times Cable TV Program for Seniors**

Programs shown of the Vintage Times are as follows:

June Safety issues, Troy Agema, Sheriff’s office

July Exercise and the Older Adult, Be Fit, Downers Grove

Aug Home Ownership Preservation for Elderly Persons, DuPage Homeownership Center

Sept Hearing Loss, Americans for Better Hearing Foundation

6. **Recent articles on Township website:**

Fraud articles - Top Ten Scams

Seniors’ article – Car Care Clinic

7. **S.A.L.T**

a) **State TRIAD conference**: 9/12 – 13 at Elgin Holiday Inn. Three persons will attend on September 12: Thomas Anderson, Kathy Abbate & Hanna Benioff

b) **Car Care Clinic** – Saturday 9/23, 8 – 11am at Westmont Fire Station, 6105 Cass Ave. Westmont. Letters will be mailed to persons who previously attended and to mechanics. Community groups will be invited to distribute information. A Tax-exempt letter will be provided to contributors.

8) **Senior Fair at Lincoln Center** – Joan and Hanna worked the Township table. It was a successful event with almost 200 seniors in attendance. We distributed 150 townships bags and much information.

9. **Sub Committees**

I.T. sub-committee – Lisa Berg, chair of the I.T. sub-committee distributed an impressive list of ideas. Members of her sub-committee will include Rob Petranek, Hanna Benioff, a person named Karston Holland who has ideas about educating seniors in I.T. matters and perhaps Julie Larson. I.T. information and education can also be provided via the Banner News, the website at an "Open House". Rob suggested the possibility of producing a training video that could be distributed to various groups.

b) **Housing sub-committee** – Rob Petranek, chair of this sub-committee, said that as a realtor he has personal experience with the housing needs of seniors. Education and information are very important both for seniors and their family caregivers.

10. **Banner News** – we will start working on the next Banner News

11. **Senior Day** - Tom suggested that we have a Senior Day to explain our programs. We could also mail postcards with such information to senior households. The approximate number of senior households in the Township is: 65+ = 15,400; 60+ = 20,800; 55+ = 26,200.

10. **Other** – Floyd Mizener invited everyone to attend a Lions meeting on 7/11 to hear a presentation on Low Vision by a vision specialist from the new College of Optometry in Downers Grove.

Next meeting: - August 7, 2017 at 1:30pm

6. **Future Meeting dates** (Mondays, 1:30pm at the Township's boardroom)

9/18, 10/2, 11/6, 12/4

7. **Meeting adjourned** at 3:10pm

Hanna