

Downers Grove Township
SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 10, 2023

MINUTES

A **MEETING** of the Senior Advisory Committee was held at the Township Center, 4341 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, on Monday, July 10, 2023.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:33pm.
2. **Roundtable Introductions.** Roundtable introductions were made. Following is the meeting attendance:

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

Members: Angela Bentsen, Paul Coultrap, Mark Davis, Mary Ferguson, Janet Garreau, Terri Geppner, George Goodwin, Tony Kermend, Dustin Kleefisch, Julie Larson, Teresa Mrozik, Kerry Quirin, Karen Spencer, Atiya Coleman-Young, Cassie Vanderklok, Dave Zalesiak

Guests: Karen Kelly, Ylandus Roundy

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** Upon review, Gaye Wagner asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the June 5, 2023 Meeting. A Motion to Approve was made by Lisa Rasin and seconded by Pat Klebenow. 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 welcomed new members and a member update was given. She reiterated the goal to have representative membership across Downers Grove Township. SAC welcomed Teresa Mrozik, Superintendent of Senior Services at the Village of Willowbrook and Mary Ferguson, Community Outreach Manager of The Birches in Clarendon Hills. Ferguson also serves on the Dementia Friendly Westmont Task Force. Atiya Coleman-Young is now with Cedarhurst in Woodridge, and introduced Ylandus Rouny, Director of Sales.

Wagner thanked Robert Petrank for his service to the SAC Board. An election of SAC Board Members was held by ballot. Each candidate gave a short biography and stated why they want to serve SAC. Janet Garreau, Heather Lippe, Linda Rush and Susan Sinderson were voted in as Board Members and will serve until July 10, 2026. Wagner stated that a SAC Board Member strategic planning meeting will be held on August 2, 2023 at 2:30pm.

Wagner asked that members share meeting agenda items and documents they would like distributed to the committee to her and Karen Spencer one week in advance of the meetings.

Wagner asked members to sign-up to commit to distributing copies of the monthly newsletter throughout DGT.

Wagner thanked the committee members who brought toilet paper donations for the FISH food pantry.

Wagner announced that AgeGuide will host an Aging Summit on August 23, 2023 and encouraged SAC members to attend. Last year's event was informative and relevant to the SAC committee members that attended.

Wagner announced that the August 7, 2023 SAC meeting will be held at Community Adult Day Center. Lisa Rasin volunteered to give a tour of the FISH food pantry at a SAC future meeting held at the Township Center.

6. Township Officials Updates.

A. Paul Coultrap announced that there was a fire in the basement of the Downers Grove Township Administrative Offices building, the evening of July 3, 2023. He reported that restoration efforts are underway and staff is working hard remotely. Township Center events are running as usual. Karen Spencer added that no one was injured in the fire.

B. Karen Spencer announced that the Township Center is celebrating it's one year anniversary of programming at the Township Center. Attendance continues to increase steadily and attendees are extremely satisfied with the programs offered. Programs are filling quickly. Suggestions from SAC members for future seminars are appreciated. Spencer shared that the DGT medical lending program has been implemented and is off to a good start. Spencer gave an update from the "Just Us Seniors" senior forum. Spencer announced that no plans are in place to offer a Car Care Clinic at this time and that a chairperson is needed if this was an event DGT would pursue hosting. Spencer shared that DGT will be hosting it's first Memory Cafe in September.

7. Member Updates.

A. Linda Rush noted that she hears from seniors who are moving that they aren't sure what to do with the valuable items they'd like to sell. She suggested that SAC offer a "sale" event. Discussion about logistics such as planning, space, fees was had and members were asked to consider this idea.

B. Lisa Rasin thanked SAC members for the toilet paper donations for the FISH food pantry. She also thanked those who volunteered at Rotary Fest. It was a great event with a lot of community support. The nonprofit organization representatives shared that they were happy to participate and appreciated the opportunity to have a table set up, as well as are grateful for the donations they receive for staffing volunteers.

C. Pat Kelbenow announced that Taste of Westmont was being held this upcoming weekend.

D. Heather Lippe announced that she passed out a lot of community resources at her table at RotaryFest.

E. Corporal Tony Kermend commented about the prevalence of fraud instances and shared some insights.

F. Angela Bentsen invited SAC members to attend the AgeGuide Summit on August 23, 2023. Bentsen also shared that AgeGuide has submitted a grant for possible funds to be used towards “Dementia Friendly” programs. Mary Ferguson added more information about “Dementia Friendly Communities” and stated that RUSH is the Illinois state lead.

G. Janet Garreau shared statistics about the progress of Interfaith Community Partners. They are seeing an increase in the number of volunteer drivers they have as well as in the number of rides they are providing to older adults.

J. Julie Larson announced that caregiver respite funds are available, through DuPage County. She shared that the LIWAP Program is now closed as funds are no longer available. However, there is a 2nd water program that individuals may qualify for if their service has been disconnected and they meet a financial need.

8. Presentation. Angela Bentsen gave an overview presentation about AgeGuide and the services they provide. She also shared information about their funded partners and the services offered.

9. Motion to Adjourn. Upon Motion made by Heather Lippe and seconded by Pat Klembenow, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Spencer

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOARD MEMBERS AND MEMBERS

Beardsley, Ralph	SAC Vice Chairman/Resident
Garreau, Janet	SAC Board Member/Interfaith Community Partners
Klebenow, Pat	SAC Board Member/Resident
Lippe, Heather	SAC Board Member/Village of Downers Grove Social Worker
Rasin, Lisa	SAC Board Member/FISH Pantry
Rush, Linda	SAC Board Member/Resident
Sinderson, Susan	SAC Board Member/Community Adult Day Center
Wagner, Gaye	SAC Chairman/Independence 4 Seniors
Wright, Bruce	SAC Board Member/Resident
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
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 Human Services
Teresa Mrozik	Village of Willowbrook
Petranek, Robert	Friends For Downers Grove Township Seniors, Coldwell Banker
Pleimling, Yvette	Immanuel Residences
Quirin, Kerry	Senior Living Experts
Spencer, Karen	Downers Grove Township Senior Services Coordinator
Spizzirri, Jillian	The Community House
Vanderklok, Cassie	Peace Memorial Manor
Young, Atiya Coleman	Cedarhurst
Zalesiak, Dave	Westmont Fire Department