

TOWNSHIP OF DOWNERS GROVE
SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE/SALT COUNCIL

Minutes --- 8-7-17

SAC Committee members present: Kathy Abbate, Tom Anderson; Ralph Beardsley, Lisa Berg, Floyd Mizener, Robert Petranek, Richard Strang, William Wavak, Pat Klebenow, **SALT:** George Goodwin, AARP; Julie Larson DuPage County Senior Services; Alice Krampetts, Westmont Park District

Also Present: Alison Clemens, Clemens Enterprises Inc.; Cathy Rager, DGT; Joan Nichols, DGT; Karen Kelly, DGT Trustee (liaison to senior committees); Terry Emmanuel, Board Member FFDGTS

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Thomas Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.
2. **Welcome:** Mark Thoman briefly discussed the reorganization of Township staff due to loss of our DHS grant and budget cuts. Hanna Benioff, part-time senior services coordinator and Lori Wrzesinski, Public Relations Director, have left their positions at the Township
3. **Introduction of New Township Senior Services Coordinator** – Cathy Rager moved to Township Senior Services, as Coordinator, from Township Youth Services, as Prevention Specialist, on September 1st. She has worked for the Township for 14 years doing community drug prevention activities through a Department of Human Services Grant in the southeast portion of the Township. Cathy has many contacts with local social service agencies, coalitions and other organizations that she believes will “crossover” to senior services and be of benefit. She will be available 4 days per week and work closely with Supervisor’s staff to support ongoing programs/activities which include (but are not exclusive to) Dial-A-Ride and Benefit Access. Banner News and Vintage Times are still on the radar and will be continued and enhanced once Cathy assimilates into her new position. Cathy will serve as secretary for the committee unless or until the committee selects someone else. Cathy is very pleased and excited to join this committee and be a liaison to the Friends for Downers Grove Township Seniors. She looks forward to new collaborations and activities that will support the seniors in our Township.
4. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes dated 7/10 were approved as typed.
5. **Dial-A-Ride** – Joan- Quarterly report (April-June) Riders increased by 13 (7.2%) don’t know if this will be a trend-generally holding steady; 1 complaint- ability to reserve consecutive rides, presently- 1 week ahead medical, 2-3 days others, ridership is first come-first served. Dial-A-Ride has officially extended its service to Loyola Hospital, east of County Line Rd., joining Hinsdale and Good Samaritan hospitals served by Dial-A-Ride; Municipal cab coupons are available: Burr Ridge, Willowbrook, Downers Grove and Darien; DG Park District has Dial-A-Ride listed in its brochures. Check other Park Districts?
6. **Friends of Downers Grove Township Seniors** – The Fall fundraiser, “Fall Into Romance,” -cancelled due to the change in Township staff. There will be an August FFDGTS meeting; after that meetings are suspended until October

7. **Vintage Times Cable TV Program for Seniors** August/September Vintage Times has been cancelled. Cathy Rager will reconnect with Downers Grove Village staff to continue program

- Obtain stats for viewership- YouTube, Website??
- Serves 60 communities

8. **Banner News** – Mark would like to see additional outreach with Banner News:

- Possibly spread over several Township's within the Township to cost share
- \$10,000 a mailer to 20,000 households
- Utilize “cheaper” mailer for multiple mailings
- Add scam alerts to all mailings for more timely communication to seniors

9. **Township Website Articles** Seniors' Article – Car Care Clinic

10. **S.A.L.T** Troy offered to bring his Explorers to the Car Care Clinic as volunteers.

a) **State TRIAD conference**: 9/12 at Elgin Holiday Inn. Three persons will attend on September 12: Thomas Anderson, Kathy Abbate & Cathy Rager; Troy Agema attending also

b) **Car Care Clinic** – Sat. 9/23, 8-11am Westmont Fire Dept., 6105 Cass Ave. Westmont, Recruitment letters: previous participants and mechanics (Cathy, Tom & Richard); Contact: sponsors for food/supply donations & freebies (Pat K. Cathy, Tom) Alison & Tom are considering donations, community reps for tables (Cathy, George, Alison), Fire Dept. for location/set-up (Cathy, Pat- Lynn D.); Volunteers: EMA, Troy- Explorers, Senior Committee (Kathy, Karen, Tom, Pat, etc.); Finalize plans-mtg. 9/18

11. **Sub Committees**

a) **I.T. sub-committee** –

Short-term goal: Create hand-out on local IT classes; Rob suggested 3-page leaflet (8.5 by 11)- Kathy and Julie suggested READABLE PRINT; don't “reinvent the wheel”- have linkages to local libraries who offer classes and services: Westmont- “Book a Librarian”, Indian Prairie Library has one-on-one available also, utilize director of adult services and/or IT person for info/help; possibly create before CCC? Will give to Joan- to run off

- Karston Holland knows of apps for Smart Phones to access senior info
- Collaborate with Township High Schools for student help with computers, emails, social media etc.- Hinsdale South does this (connect young and old)- service hour credit?
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- Safe-Link **Free** Phones- Medicaid- may be hard to get them
- Dupage County Phones available- 911 only

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. Education needed includes:

- Energy assistance
- Renovations- wide doorways, ramps, etc.
- Vetted contractors
- Find ways to be a conduit for seniors
- Contact Dupage Senior Citizens Council for information/collaboration?

12. **SAC Sponsored- Events/Programs**

Senior Day – (approximate number of senior households in the Township is: 65+ = 15,400; 60+ = 20,800; 55+ = 26,200)

- Provide information on local programs, resources and activities
- Marketing: Next Door, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Senior Housing, Meals on Wheels, Website

13. **Survey Discussion**

- Need new survey to understand goals for current *large* aging population (Baby Boomers- 1946-1964) “Junior” Seniors (55-72?), “Senior” Seniors (72/75-)
- Senior seniors may need hard copies vs. online access
- Senior seniors may not like email due to spam/scams and computer/WiFi cost
- Review previous survey- compare and refine
- Last survey- 700 were sent out; 100-150 were given to Westmont Park District program- many were done on field trip bus rides
- Meals-on-Wheels opportunity for survey implementation- 400 deliveries in Township
- Collaboration w/Libraries & Schools—give service hours and credits-

14. **Other Events/Programs** – Lion’s Club 82nd year celebration- Gatos Restaurant, Downers Grove- noon-1:30pm- Floyd would like Committee represented there

15. **Next meeting:** - October 2, 2017 at 1:30pm

16. **Future Meeting dates-** Mondays, 1:30pm Township’s boardroom -11/6, 12/4

17. **Meeting adjourned** at 3:00pm