

**Downers Grove Township**  
**SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**August 7, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**A MEETING** of the Senior Advisory Committee was held at the Township Center, 4341 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, on Monday, August 7, 2023.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.
2. **Roundtable Introductions.** Roundtable introductions were made. Following is the meeting attendance:

**Board Members:** Pat Klebenow, Heather Lippe, Lisa Rasin, Linda Rush, Susan Sinderson, Bruce Wright, Gaye Wagner

**Members:** Angela Bentsen, Mark Davis, Deb DiPasquale, Mary Ferguson, Terri Geppner, George Goodwin, Susan Mistretta, Teresa Mrozik, Yvette Pleimling, Kerry Quirin, Ylandus Roundy, Karen Spencer, Cassie Vanderklok, Dave Zalesiak

**Guests:** Claire Nass, Management Analyst for the Village of Burr Ridge

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** Upon review, Gaye Wagner asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the July 10, 2023 Meeting. A Motion to Approve was made by Lisa Rasin and seconded by Linda Rush. Upon voice vote of the Board Members, the Motion was unanimously carried.

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

5. **SAC Member Reports.**

**A.** Chairperson Wagner gave a summary of the August 2, 2023 strategic planning session held by the SAC Board. Attached hereto as Exhibits are the SAC mission statements. The mission of the SAC was reviewed. Among other things, Wagner reminded committee members that SAC meetings would be about giving updates about what is happening with older adults in the township. Instead of individual organization updates, Chairperson Wagner and Karen Spencer asked all members to share event flyers with them ahead of time to be distributed to the group. Presentations from members and case study sharing sessions will also be part of the monthly meetings. Additionally, it was decided that every meeting should have a specific topic of focus. A brainstorming discussion followed, where ideas for the focus of future meetings were generated. Wagner stated that all members can benefit from the meetings because all member experience is valuable to everyone. Susan Sinderson added that the Township Trustees don't know about senior issues without the work of the SAC members. Outside of the SAC meetings, all members are encouraged to assist at, as well as attend, various community events. A suggestion of hosting off-site or virtual senior programs was also made. Wagner reiterated the need for community liaisons to sign up to deliver newsletters in the communities and to serve as point people for sharing DGT information. She also stated that the SAC needs a Darien representative. A suggestion was made to establish committees to handle specific projects. Spencer added that, regarding the ideas to host a Car Care Clinic or garage sale, that had previously been suggested would be, those ideas would

be explored if there were volunteers interested in coordinating them. It was also suggested that a member directory be created. Karen Spencer asked that SAC members send her a description of their work along with current contact information. Wagner introduced guest Claire Nass, and she described her involvement in the community.

**6. Township Officials Updates.**

Karen Spencer announced that fire restoration work is still ongoing at the Township office building. Spencer also announced that the Senior Center is very busy, with many events full to capacity. More and more seniors are registering and attending events. In addition, parking and staffing limitations impact the number of attendees served. Furthermore, she shared an update from the recent "Just Us Seniors" meeting which included requests to host more seminars on understanding financial matters and more housing resources. Spencer shared that the township wants to host "Just Us Seniors" forums throughout the township, such as at libraries, park districts, churches, etc. Finally, Spencer stated that Downers Grove Township will be partnering with Terra Vista for Memory Cafes to be held on September 11, October 16, November 13, and December 11. This program is for individuals living with dementia and their carepartners to participate in a gentle exercise activity together. SAC members are asked to share the program information with those in their networks.

**7. Member Updates.**

**A.** In Robert Petranek's absence, Karen Spencer announced that FFDGTS' annual fundraiser will be held on Thursday, October 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 at Oak Trace. Tickets are \$25 per person.

**B.** Angela Bentsen shared that AgeGuide is hosting a summit on "Building Equity in Longevity" on August 23, 2023. All SAC members are invited to attend. Bentsen also announced that a grant was awarded to AgeGuide to be used for expanding Dementia Friendly Communities.

**8. Case Study.** Heather Lippe brought a case study to the attention of the SAC, regarding a resident who was in need of assistance. A discussion followed where members shared suggestions.

**9. Motion to Adjourn.** Upon Motion made by Heather Lippe and seconded by Susan Sinderson, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Susan R. Mistretta

*\*The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee was established in May, 1983, by the Township Board of Trustees. It consist of nine volunteers who reside in different parts of the Township and serve as the "eyes and ears" of senior citizens in our Township. The committee investigates the ability of elderly persons to maintain their self-sufficiency and personal well-being within programs currently available. If unmet needs are demonstrated the committee lets the Township Board know what services are needed.*

9/09

## Committee's Role & Responsibilities

### Township Resolution, 5/93

#### Recap:

Importance for seniors to maintain their self-sufficiency and personal well-being within programs that are currently available - with a viewpoint to supplementing and assisting existing programs or instituting new programs if there is a real and crucial need for services which are not currently being provided.

---

#### Excerpts

> Revised Statutes authorize the Township Board of Trustees to appoint a Township Committee for Senior Citizens' Services to Investigate the needs of senior citizens unable to maintain their self-sufficiency and personal well-being.

> Board of Trustees determined a need for a Township Committee for Senior Citizens to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the well-being and self-sufficiency of citizens residing within the township who are 55 or older.

> Resolved .... to establish committee to investigate the level and nature of the ability of senior citizens to maintain the level and nature of the ability of senior citizens to maintain their self-sufficiency and personal well-being.

> Committee is directed to undertake an investigation in cooperation with the Illinois Department on Aging, the Department of transportation and with other Township area community groups and agencies to investigate the current status of the ability of senior citizens to maintain their self-sufficiency and their personal well-being within programs that are currently available.....

The committee is not instructed to create programs out of mere convenience, nor to duplicate services already provided to senior citizens, but is specifically charged to examine the current status with a viewpoint to supplementing and assisting existing programs or instituting new programs if there is a real and crucial need for services which are not currently being provided.