

**Downers Grove Township
SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 11, 2023
MINUTES**

A **MEETING** of the Senior Advisory Committee was held at the Township Center, 4341 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, on Monday, September 11, 2023.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:34pm.

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

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

Members: Paul Coultrap, Mark Davis, Mary Ferguson, Marquitta Harris, Julie Larson, Susan Mistretta, Yvette Pleimling, Karen Spencer, Cassie Vanderklok, and Dave Zalesiak.

Guests: Darien Alderman Ralph Stompanato.

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** Upon review, Gaye Wagner asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the August 7, 2023 Meeting. A Motion to Approve was made by Lisa Rasin and seconded by Heather Lippe. 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 announced that focus areas will now become a regular part of SAC Meetings. The focus area of this meeting will be affordable housing. Future topics will change as needs change.

- The Member Directory still needs information to be complete. All information is required to be in by September 22, 2023.
- Following the December 4, 2023 meeting there will be a social event to celebrate the holidays.
- Effective immediately, Trustee Dave Ricordati is the liaison from Downers Grove Township Board.
- Karen Spencer, Janet Garreau and Heather Lippe attended the recent Age Guide summit and gave favorable reviews. Karen Spencer offered an overview of the summit and will forward the information to anyone interested.
- Currently, we have the following community liaisons:

Westmont and Clarendon Hills: Mary Ferguson

Downers Grove: Heather Lippe, Lisa Rasin, Bruce Wright, Linda Rush

Hinsdale, Burr Ridge Willowbrook: Gaye Wagner

Darien: Marquitta Harris, Robert Petranek

6. Township Officials Update.

A. Paul Coultrap announced that the Township now has a Lending Closet for medical supplies. Coultrap further stated that the Township is receiving daily phone calls to either donate or borrow equipment. Information on the Lending Closet can be found on the Township's Facebook page, DGT social media, as well as the social media of several communities. Coultrap also gave an update on passport return times, advising anyone considering future travel to keep these times in mind. Finally, Coultrap announced that during the months of June through August 2023, 2,145 people attended programs in the Senior Center.

B. Karen Spencer informed the Committee that the "Just Us Seniors" community forum is very popular, but the attendants are asking for more experiences like that one. Spencer also stated that there are wait lists for nearly all programs at the Senior Center. Spencer is doing outreach to get more feedback and urges SAC Members to attend programs when they are available. Seniors have also asked to meet with DGT Trustees to get a sense of what the Board does. Seniors are also asking for more day trips and longer travel. Finally, Spencer stated that the first "Memory Café" was held, and the attendance was low. Spencer requested that all SAC Members spread the word about the Memory Café.

7. Focus Area Discussion: Affordable Housing and How It Affects Seniors.

A. Yvette Pleimling stated that the need is far greater than the availability. (Currently, there is a two-four year waiting list for senior housing.) However, seniors should not be intimidated by that.

B. Julie Larson stated that there is a County-wide housing directory located on the DuPage County website. Larson advised putting one's name on as many waiting lists as possible.

C. Members Mary Ferguson and Marquitta Harris shared resources with the Committee.

8. Member and Guest Updates.

A. Darien Alderman Ralph Stompanato introduced himself and stated he was recently elected and is attending the meeting in response to his constituents asking for senior services.

B. Heather Lippe gave an update on the case study she presented at the July meeting.

9. Adjournment. Upon motion made by Pat Klebenow and seconded by Lisa Rasin, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Susan R. Mistretta