

**Downers Grove Township
SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 2, 2023
MINUTES**

A **MEETING** of the Senior Advisory Committee was held at the Township Center, 4341 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, on Monday, October 2, 2023.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.

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

Board Members: Janet Garreau, Pat Klebenow, Heather Lippe*, Linda Rush, Gaye Wagner, and Bruce Wright.

Members: Sarah Behrens, Paul Coultrap, Debbie DiPasquale, Mary Ferguson, Lorraine Grimsby, Julie Larson, Teresa Mrozik, Robert Petranek, Yvette Pleimling, Kerry Quirin, Dave Ricordati, Ylandus Roundy, Karen Spencer, Ralph Stompanato, and Dave Zalesiak.

*by phone

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** Upon review, Gaye Wagner asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the September 11, 2023 Meeting. A Motion to Approve was made by Linda Rush 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 reviewed the September 11, 2023 meeting highlights. SAC will be creating a member directory and members should send their contact information and a description of their work to Karen Spencer. The focus area discussion was on affordable housing. The community liaisons were reviewed:

Westmont, Clarendon Hills-Mary Ferguson

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

Hinsdale, Willowbrook, Burr Ridge- Gaye Wagner

Darien-Marquitta Harris, Robert Petranek

6. Township Officials Update.

A. Paul Coultrap announced that Sarah Behrens has been hired as the Downers Grove Township Human Services Outreach Coordinator. She will be responsible for tasks such as connecting with community partners, leading SAC, attending Chamber events and expos, public relations, etc. Karen Spencer will focus on scheduling and facilitating events at the senior center.

B. Karen Spencer recapped the senior center growth. She reiterated that many community members are attending programs regularly and that events continue to fill quickly. She stated that attendees are receiving a lot of resource and referral information in addition to the event content. She thanked SAC members for their help in distributing the monthly newsletter and encouraged people to sign up for additional dropoff locations. Spencer stated that several senior community members spoke at the recent Township Board meeting to share their feedback regarding the senior center and they encouraged the trustees to consider long-term plans for growth. Spencer informed the Committee that additional "Just Us Seniors" community forums will be taking place throughout the township in the coming year. SAC members are encouraged to identify locations to host these conversations as well as other off-site senior programs. Spencer shared updates on the senior center program schedules. Follow-up discussion continued with input from various members. Spencer shared information regarding the Community Dining program and a lengthy discussion followed where suggestions were shared to increase attendance. Spencer encouraged SAC members to attend senior center events and to help identify potential sponsors.

7. Focus Area Discussion: Providing senior-related information to adult children.

A. A lengthy discussion regarding how to reach adult children was held. Many members contributed ideas for educating adults on how they can support their parents as they age. Discussion was had about how to reach them before there is a need. Many ideas such as evening seminars, presenting at community clubs, creating resource pamphlets to distribute, and creating testimonial videos were suggested. Topics for education were shared. It was suggested to have a family day at the senior center where children could come with their parents.

8. Member and Guest Updates.

A. Mary Ferguson shared that an in-person dementia support group will be held at the Westmont Library, on the first Thursday of each month, at 6:00 p.m.

B. Julie Larson stated that the LIHEAP opened and appointments can be made at DuPage County Community Services and at Downers Grove Township.

C. Robert Petranek announced that the Friends For Downers Grove Township Seniors fundraiser will be held at Oak Trace on October 12, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased on their website. All are invited to attend.

D. Debbie DiPasquale shared that AARP will be participating in a CarFit event with Lisle/Naperville TRIAD, on October 14.

E. Janet Garreau stated that Interfaith Community Partners is looking for volunteer drivers to give rides to older adults.

F. Dave Zeliniak shared that the Westmont Fire Department Open House will be held on October 14.

G. Karen Spencer announced, on behalf of Mark Davis, that Ace Hardware in Westmont stated that many seniors are looking for handyman repair services. Spencer also reminded SAC members to spread the word about the Memory Cafe events that Downers Grove Township hosts each month.

9. **Adjournment.** Upon motion made by Janet Garreau and seconded by Pat Klebenow, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Spencer