

**SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**November 7, 2022**

**MINUTES**

A **MEETING** of the Senior Advisory Committee was held both via conference call and in person at the Township Center located at 4341 Saratoga Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, on Monday, November 7, 2022.

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:	Robert Petranek, Linda Rush*, Susan Sinderson, Gaye Wagner, Bruce Wright, Heather Lippe
Members:	Angela Bentsen, Janet Garreau, Marquitta Harris, Julie Larson, Susan Mistretta, Carrie Navins, Kerri Quirin, Karen Spencer, Jillian Spizzirri, Atiya Coleman Young
	*By phone

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** Upon review, it was noted that the spelling of Jillian Spizzirri's name in Paragraph 2 of the October 4, 2022 Minutes needs to be corrected. Susan Sinderson made a Motion to Approve the November 7, 2022 Minutes, as Amended, and was seconded by Robert Petranek. The Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.
4. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
5. **SAC Member Reports.**
  - A. **Chairman's Report.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner announced that, in connection with ongoing discussions about dementia-friendly communities, following today's meeting there will be a presentation by Mary Ferguson, from The Birches and Westmont Chamber of Commerce, and Susan Frick, from Rush Medical Center, on creating dementia-friendly communities. Additionally, Angela Bentsen mentioned that Age Guide will be offering a virtual training course on recognizing dementia. Discussion ensued and, among other things, it was suggested that a resource guide be prepared for public distribution on caring for dementia patients.

**B. Member Report.** Robert Petranek remarked that FFDGTS' annual fundraiser saw more money raised and more attendance than ever before. George Goodwin was awarded with the Volunteer of the Year award. Bruce Wright and GardenWorks volunteers were recognized for their volunteer service. Petranek reported that through the GardenWorks project 500 pounds of vegetables were harvested from the Township garden and donated to the FISH Pantry. Finally, Petranek announced that the next FFDGTS fundraiser will be held on December 5 at Neat Kitchen in Westmont. FFDGTS will receive a percentage of the proceeds purchased from 4:00 to 7:30pm.

**6. Township Officials Update.**

**A. Supervisor's Report.** None

**B. Senior Services Report.** Karen Spencer reported that the November newsletter has been distributed, and Senior Services is receiving daily phone calls about upcoming activities. Regarding the File of Life, Spencer announced that she is considering placing a re-order.

**7. Community Partner and Guest Updates.**

**A. Village of Willowbrook.** Carrie Navins announced that if any not-for-profit agency would like to advertise in the newsletter she puts out, she would be happy to include them free of charge.

**B. The Community House.** Jillian Spizzirri announced December activities, including financial seminars, a holiday party, and a trip to the Christkindl market in Aurora. TCH also hosts open game days (for bridge and mahjong), as well as monthly investment and financial group meetings. Spizzirri did comment that the number of people attending activities is still not at pre-COVID levels.

**C. DuPage County Senior Services.** Julie Larson announced the new 24-hour service, "211". By calling 211, DuPage County residents can get access to services such as food, housing, utility bill assistance, etc. Julie also distributed handouts describing the service.

**D. Age Guide.** Angela Bentsen reported that Age Guide will be offering a virtual seminar on working family caregivers. The seminar will feature a speaker from the University of Massachusetts, and AARP will offer a working family caregiver tool kit. The seminar will be recorded.

**E. Interfaith Community Partners.** Janet Garreau reported that proceeds from their annual fundraiser grossed over \$90,000. Garreau also remarked that ICP has formed an expansion committee, and is looking for volunteers, to pave the way into Darien, Downers Grove, Westmont and Willowbrook.

**F. Magnolia Senior Living.** Atiya Coleman Young announced that Magnolia will be hosting a "Joe & Dough" (coffee and donuts) event on November 10, 2022 to reintroduce Magnolia to the community.

**G. Community Adult Day Care.** Susan Sinderson complimented Downers Grove Township's Senior Services seminars for the educated and well-spoken seniors it is attracting. She remarked that she was impressed by the number of people interested in planning their futures.

**H. Senior Living Experts.** Kerri Quirin remarked that she is currently recommending long term care insurance for young seniors and near-seniors.

**I. Indian Prairie Public Library.** Marquitta Harris reported that January activities at IPPL will include aging-in-place seminars and other subjects of interest to seniors. She will bring copies of the January IPPL calendar to the December 5 meeting.

**J. Independence4Seniors.** Gaye Wagner remarked that she is very busy with providing resources to seniors who wish to stay in their own homes.

**8. Adjournment.** A Motion to Adjourn was made by Robert Petranek and seconded by Susan Sinderson. The Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote, and the meeting adjourned at 3:03pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2022.

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Submitted by Susan R. Mistretta

**SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**November 7, 2022 Meeting Attendance**

Beardsley, Ralph	SAC Vice-Chairman	Absent
Klebenow, Pat	SAC Board Member	Absent
Lippe, Heather	Village of Downers Grove Social Worker	Present
Petranek, Robert	SAC Board Member, Coldwell Banker	Present
Rasin, Lisa	SAC Board Member, FISH Pantry	Absent
Rush, Linda	SAC Board Member	Present
Sinderson, Susan	SAC Board Member, Community Adult Day Center	Present
Wagner, Gaye	SAC Chairperson, Independence 4 Seniors	Present
Wright, Bruce	SAC Board Member	Present
Agema, Troy	DuPage County Sheriff	Absent
Bentsen, Angela	Age Guide	Present
Catalano, Connie	Life Transition Specialist	Absent
Coultrap, Paul	Downers Grove Township Supervisor	Absent
Dralle, Lynn	Westmont Fire Department	Absent
Garreau, Janet	Interfaith Community Partners	Present
Geppner, Terri	Comfort Keepers	Absent
Goodwin, George	AARP	Absent
Harris, Marquitta	Indian Prairie Public Library	Present
Krampits, Alice	Westmont Park District	Absent
Larson, Julie	DuPage County Senior Services	Present
Mistretta, Susan	Downers Grove Township Senior Services	Present
Navins, Carrie	Village of Willowbrook	Present
Quirin, Kerri	Senior Living Experts	Present
Spencer, Karen	Downers Grove Township Senior Services	Present
Spizzirri, Jillian	The Community House	Present
Stoll, Mary	Downers Grove Township Trustee	Absent
Young, Atiya Coleman	Magnolia Senior Living	Present