

Downers Grove Township
SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 4, 2023

MINUTES

A MEETING of the Downers Grove Township Senior Advisory Committee was held at the Township Center, 4341 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515, on Monday, December 4, 2023.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner called the meeting to order at 1:37pm.
2. **Roundtable Introductions.** Roundtable introductions were made. Following is the meeting attendance:

Board Members: Heather Lippe, Lisa Rasin, Linda Rush, Susan Sinderson, Gaye Wagner, and Bruce Wright.

Members: Sarah Behrens, Angela Bentsen, Paul Coultrap, Mark Davis, Deb DiPasquale, Terri Geppner, Tony Kermend, Susan Mistretta, Claire Nass, Yvette Pleimling, Kerry Quirin, Dave Ricordati, Karen Spencer, Ralph Stompanato, and Dave Zalesiak.

Guests: Jane Johnson of Magnolia Senior Living, and Laurie Tsukuno.

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** Upon review, a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the November 6, 2023 Meeting was made by Lisa Rasin and seconded by Linda Rush. After a unanimous voice vote by all Board Members present, the Motion was approved.
4. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
5. **SAC Board Member Updates.** Chairperson Gaye Wagner noted that she attended the focus group hosted by Age Guide on November 3. Wagner added that the focus group showed very good participation by Downers Grove Township seniors. She also suggested that all Board members plan to attend future Just Us Seniors meetings.
6. **Township Officials Updates.**
 - A. Supervisor Paul Coultrap reported that passport applications are up and return times are slowly decreasing. Coultrap also reported that the Township medical lending closet has been very successful, with the staff taking phone calls each day for either donations or rentals.
 - B. Karen Spencer reported that the SAC Directory is in progress. All members responsible for distributing newsletters are asked to visit the Township a day or two prior to the first of the month to pick up their batch of newsletters. Spencer continued to say that the printed newsletters are used to attract new members. Spencer also encouraged all SAC members to attend one of the "Just Us Seniors" meetings held monthly. Currently the meetings are held monthly at the Senior Center, additional meetings will be held at offsite locations. Finally, Spencer indicated that the township would like to start focusing on establishing relationships with faith communities and service clubs.

7. **Focus Area Discussion.** Karen Spencer recapped the recent Age Guide listening session and reported that the primary concerns discussed were transportation and the need for a handyman. Unfortunately, no one at the meeting had any suggestions for handyman services geared towards seniors. Discussion amongst the group addressed how to handle mankind business referrals. Kerry Quirin recommended Dragonfly Senior Navigational Services for assistance. Spencer reiterated the need to inform residents of the services the Township offers, especially providing community resources. Finally, Spencer summarized the communities served by Age Guide, including DuPage, Will, Kane, Lake, Kankakee, Kendall, Grundy and McHenry Counties. Age Guide's funding comes from the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois Department on Aging. Angela Bentsen joined Spencer's conversation, saying that typical not-for-profit organizations receive funding for 40%-60% of their needs, expecting that they have matching funds from other organizations. Bentsen added that all persons aged 60+ can get a thorough assessment through the County. It is asset-based and eligible persons can receive up to 15 hours per week in assistance such as light housekeeping, grocery shopping, and transportation to medical appointments. If the senior cannot get in touch with the County, they should call Age Guide and they will intervene.

Finally, Spencer circled back to prior meetings' Community Dining discussions, saying that attendance is increasing. The Age Guide event was held during Community Dining. Future planning will include other "combinations" that can increase attendance, such as a holiday or other themed luncheon, coupons for free dining, and testimonials from other diners.

8. **Member and Guest Updates.**

- A. Jane Johnson from Magnolia Senior Living introduced herself and mentioned that she has been in the senior care industry for her entire life. She also mentioned that over the years she has sat on the boards of several companies in the senior care industry.
- B. DuPage Sheriff Tony Kermend mentioned that the SPARR program covers endangered individuals of all ages. He also mentioned the Smart 911 program, which will accept information and pictures of anyone. Kermend also outlined the Lockbox program. The DuPage County Sheriff's Office will be holding a Citizens Police Academy in the Spring. Tony will bring brochures as soon as they're available. Overall, Kermend said he is seeing more lawlessness. Kermend also recommended "Credit Karma" for checking on possible credit scams. The DuPage County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a seminar on current scams on February 24, 2024. His final bit of advice was not to use public wifi.

9. **Adjournment.** Chairperson Wagner reminded everyone about the holiday party following today's meeting. Upon Motion to Adjourn made by Heather Lippe and seconded by Susan Sinderson, the meeting was adjourned at 3:36. After a unanimous voice vote of all Members, the Motion was passed.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Susan R. Mistretta