

**SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 5, 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, December 5, 2022.

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: Ralph Beardsley, Heather Lippe*, Robert Petranek, Lisa Rasin, Gaye Wagner, Bruce Wright

Members: Troy Agema, Angela Bentsen, Janet Garreau, Terri Geppner, George Goodwin, Susan Mistretta, Carrie Navins, Kerry Quirin*, Karen Spencer, Jillian Spizzirri, Mary Stoll*, Atiya Coleman Young

Guests: Mark Davis, Karen Kelly

3. **Review and Approve Minutes.** Upon review, Robert Petranek made a Motion to Approve the Minutes of the November 7, 2022 Senior Advisory Committee Meeting. The Motion to Approve was seconded by Ralph Beardsley. The Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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

5. **SAC Member Reports.**

A. Chairman's Report.

(i) Chairperson Gaye Wagner followed up on the dementia-friendly communities seminar which followed last month's meeting. If anyone is interested, there is online training to become a "Dementia Friend" available through Dementia Friendly America (dfamerica.org). Karen Spencer has arranged a group training session to be held immediately after the February 6, 2023 Board Meeting. Age Guide will also provide online training beginning in January 2023. Karen Spencer will forward everyone the links for both. It is encouraged that all SAC members participate in the training..

(ii) Chairperson Wagner guided a discussion to review the SAC Illinois state statute and mission statement. Wagner went on to state that the statute and mission statement include bringing attention to the concerns and needs of older adults, and asked what SAC can do to meet these needs. Further, Wagner stated that SAC is to be complementary and to supplement solutions with other local organizations.

(iii) Chairperson Wagner also stated that she would like input as to what action steps SAC will be taking in 2023. Some suggestions were to hold a seminar demonstrating what, for example,

the Township can do for seniors, or print a brochure listing all SAC members and what their organizations can do for seniors.

(iv) Finally, Wagner stated that she is looking for representative membership, from all communities in the township, on the SAC. It was suggested that, rather than enlarging the current SAC membership, several smaller committees could be formed with a representative reporting to the SAC. To this end, Wagner has called a Special Board Meeting for Monday, December 19, 2022, to discuss strategic planning, the results of which will be reported at the January 9, 2023 regular SAC meeting.

B. Vice Chairman's Report. Vice Chairman Ralph Beardsley stated that he has been attending City of Darien meetings when the School District 66 Referendum and School District 63 Bond Issue were discussed.

C. Robert Petranek/FFDGTS. There will be a fundraiser tonight at Neat Kitchen and Bar in Westmont, where the restaurant will donate a portion of each participating patron's meal to FFDGTS. The FFDGTS Holiday Party will be held on December 15. FFDGTS is looking at strategic planning for 2023 and has asked Karen Spencer to prepare a "wish list" for needed Township Center items. Recently, FFDGTS purchased an additional twenty chairs for the Township Center.

D. Board Member Bruce Wright reported that he has been using his connections at the local YMCA to "get the word out" about Township Center senior events.

E. Board Member Lisa Rasin announced the FISH is now making home deliveries of food.

6. Township Officials Update.

A. Supervisor's Office. Paul Coultrap did not give an update.

B. Senior Services. Karen Spencer announced that she will be inviting seniors to attend a Question-and-Answer session prior to the February 6, 2023 SAC meeting. She will ask seniors to bring questions which are of importance to them, to be answered by SAC members and other professionals working with older adults. A forum for seniors to share their concerns and to discuss aging will be forming. The first meeting will be on January 25, 2023. Karen will report this feedback to SAC to shape future action steps. Spencer also requested that SAC members distribute the monthly newsletter listing the upcoming township activities.

7. Community Partner and Guest Updates.

A. Interfaith Community Partners. Janet Garreau reported that ICP is still promoting safe, accompanied transportation for seniors. For the holidays, ICP has started "Project Elf", which puts trained volunteers in seniors' homes to help with accessing and putting up holiday decorations.

B. AARP. George commented that he knows of several senior men, living alone, who do not go out to socialize. He emphasized how important socialization is to seniors.

C. Comfort Keepers. Terri Geppner said that she continues to educate her residents about Township services and activities.

D. Age Guide. Angela Bentsen announced that Age Guide has partnered with AARP to host a seminar advocating the use of ZOOM and Facebook pages to transmit information to seniors.

E. DuPage County Sheriff. Troy Agema announced that both crime and calls to the Sheriff are down. Agema also announced the formation of a "transparency hub" on the DuPage County Sheriff's website, which will delineate all calls to the Sheriff's office. Agema will send a link to the site.

F. The Community House. Jillian Spizzirri announced that TCH is hosting a "men only" bridge session, a senior holiday party, and the Prairie Computer Club. She also stated that, for Hinsdale seniors, TCH will be offering snow shoveling. Finally, Spizzirri stated that TCH is also available for rental.

G. Terra Vista Memory Care Assisted Living. New to SAC, Mark Davis introduced himself and gave his background. He has been in event planning and is a certified dementia practitioner.

H. **Magnolia Senior Living.** Atiya Coleman Young announced that her residents are okay and related a recent experience with a dementia resident.

I. **Village of Willowbrook.** Carrie Navins is asking her seniors to volunteer to put together cookie packages which will then be distributed by local Girl Scouts. She has 120 seniors expected for the holiday social and will be taking 25 seniors to Nashville.

J. **Senior Living Experts.** Kerry Quirin stated that she is still busy with seniors looking for living options. It is her experience that seniors are still unaware of the options for them.

K. **Village of Downers Grove.** Heather Lippe stated that she is busy with clients.

8. **Adjournment.** Upon Motion made by Lisa Rasin and seconded by Robert Petranek, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.

Submitted by Susan R. Mistretta

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOARD MEMBERS

Beardsley, Ralph	SAC Vice Chairman
Klebenow, Pat	SAC Board Member
Lippe, Heather	SAC Board Member/Village of Downers Grove Social Worker
Petranek, Robert	SAC Board Member/Coldwell Banker
Rasin, Lisa	SAC Board Member/FISH Pantry
Rush, Linda	SAC Board Member
Sinderson, Susan	SAC Board Member/Community Adult Day Center
Wagner, Gaye	SAC Chairman/Independence 4 Seniors
Wright, Bruce	SAC Board Member

MEMBERS

Agema, Troy	DuPage County Sheriff
Bentsen, Angela	Age Guide
Catalano, Connie	Life Transition Specialist
Coultrap, Paul	Downers Grove Township Supervisor
Dralle, Lynn	Westmont Fire Department
Garreau, Janet	Interfaith Community Partners
Geppner, Terri	Comfort Keepers
Goodwin, George	AARP
Harris, Marquitta	Indian Prairie Public Library
Krampits, Alice	Westmont Park District
Larson, Julie	DuPage County Senior Services
Mistretta, Susan	Downers Grove Township Senior Services
Navins, Carrie	Village of Willowbrook
Quirin, Kerry	Senior Living Experts
Spencer, Karen	Downers Grove Township Senior Services
Spizzirri, Jillian	The Community House
Stoll, Mary	Downers Grove Township Trustee
Young, Atiya Coleman	Magnolia Senior Living