

Elgin Township Committee on Seniors
729 S. McLean Blvd Elgin, IL 60123
Meeting of March 26, 2020 Minutes

MISSION: To support senior US citizens and legal residents in Elgin Township remaining independent and to age in place.

VISION STATEMENT: The vision of the Elgin Township Committee on Seniors is to recommend distribution, with accountability, designated property tax dollars via a service contract process with social service organizations that support and advocate for vulnerable Elgin Township senior US citizens and legal residents, age 55 and over, on a needs basis with the purpose to provide the means to age in place and maintain a quality of life.

The regular meeting of the Elgin Township Committee on Seniors was held on March 26, 2020, via conference call. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rich Jacobs at 2:02pm.

ROLL CALL

Jim Fox, Ginny Goyer, Joann Hartmann, Rich Jacobs, Mary Roberti, and Carl Strathmann were present on the call. Sue Moylan was absent. Quorum was established. Township Supervisor Franklin Ramirez and Trustee Rick Poulton, Board liaison, participated on call as well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Jim Fox moved to have the minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting of the Committee on Seniors approved as presented. Joann Hartmann seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Appointment to Committee on Seniors: Per 60 ILCS (Illinois Compiled Statutes)/1 Township Code, Article 220, the Township Board may appoint up to nine (9) members. Currently, there are seven (7) members serving on the Committee. Succeeding members appointed shall serve 3-year terms. Supervisor Franklin Ramirez continues to look for interested candidates since no applications for the remaining two positions have been received. Diversity is encouraged. Qualifications include being an Elgin Township citizen or legal resident with no conflict of interest.
All new committee members are required to complete the Open Meetings Act training. A Certificate of Completion must be submitted to the Township for filing.

Mary Roberti reported that she had met Dr. Dorothea Poulos, M.D. from the Elgin Family Physicians and inquired if Dr. Poulos could recommend a gerontologist who might be interested in joining our Committee. Dr. Poulos suggested we talk to Dr. Bruce Hyman, M.D. on the Administrative staff at Advocate Sherman Hospital. Dr. Hyman may be able to recommend someone. Also, Jim Fox visited with Siamphay Mounivonu from the Laotian community to see if she could recommend someone to serve on our Committee.

2. Presentation and Review of Centro de Informacion's Mid-Year Report was made by Jaime Garcia. It was noted that 12 seminars were given in the first 6 months of the grant with a total attendance of 70 seniors. Sr. Garcia reported that more seminars have been planned, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, these have been postponed. Flyers in both English and Spanish have been developed and can be included in the Elgin Township Newsletter to encourage attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review Food for Greater Elgin's Mid-Year Report: Michael Montgomery, Interim Director for Food for Greater Elgin (FFGE) and Mike Warren, FFGE's Board Chair made the presentation. Wellness was the category for the 2019 proposal. The grant provided Fresh to You Senior Mobile Markets. In the first six (6) months, distributions were made to three (3) communities: Central Park Towers, Senior Services, and homeless individuals via the Elgin Police Department. In addition, proxy shopping was allowed for seniors who are unable to travel. Approximately, 918 unique Township Seniors were served.

2. Emergency Funding Request: In an email to Chair Rich Jacobs from Dr. Michael Montgomery, dated, March 23, 2020, an emergency funding request was made for \$60,000 to “help us meet the challenges of providing food assistance to our senior citizens in the Elgin Township”. Reasons for the funding request include:
 - a. An increase in the number of new families who are requesting food assistance due to the coronavirus pandemic
 - b. An additional ‘seniors only’ food distribution held at the warehouse on Fridays to reduce exposure to the virus
 - c. Promotion of proxy shopping for stay-at-home seniors
 - d. Additional staff to replace volunteers
 - e. Food purchases to replace previously donated food from local grocery stores

After discussion and a questions and answer session, Chair Rich Jacobs moved that the Elgin Township Committee on Seniors grant Food for Greater Elgin, \$100,000.00 to meet the needs of seniors in Elgin Township during this crisis. [Before the vote, discussion included the request for FFGE to provide a 3-month report and to provide frequent updates.] Carl Strathmann seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1-0.

Next steps: This emergency funding grant of \$100,000.00 to FFGE will be presented to the Elgin Township Supervisor and Trustees at their regular monthly meeting, April 6, 2020, 6:00pm. If approved, the money will be distributed immediately. All Committee on Seniors members are encouraged to attend the April 6 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Elgin Township Annual meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020, at 6:00pm. Information as to how to attend the meeting is in review.

The next general meeting of the Committee on Seniors is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2020, 2:00pm. Due to the shelter-in-place mandate, a phone number will be provided to conduct the meeting via a conference call.

ADJOURNMENT

Jim Fox moved to adjourn. Joann Hartmann seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0. Time was 3:34pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Roberti.

Mary Roberti, Secretary

Date

Rich Jacobs, Chairperson

Date

James Fox

Date

Ginny Goyer

Date

Joann Hartmann

Date

absent

Sue Moylan

Date

Carl Strathmann

Date