

Elgin Township Committee on Seniors Board
729 S. McLean Blvd Elgin, IL 60123
Meeting of September 26, 2024, Minutes

The regular meeting of the Town of Elgin, Illinois was held in Lower-Level Meeting Room A. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Maggie Beyer at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Chairwoman Beyer asked committee member Marilyn Burge to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pedro Echevarria gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Committee members Marilyn Burge, Pedro Echevarria, Alfredo Ramirez, Marianne Rowe, Carl Strathmann, David Teas, and Chairwoman Maggie Beyer were present. William Lucas, and Fred Haas were absent. Roll was called.

Quorum was established. Board Liaison Janet Rogalla was also present.

A. RECOGNIZE PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Carl Strathmann to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2024, Committee on Seniors meeting. Motion seconded by Marianne Rowe. Motion carried. 7-0-0.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 2024 Sexual Harassment Prevention Training: It will be available in the fall.

2. Visit Senior Services Funding Recipients' Sites and Be Prepared to Give Report at October Meeting:

Centro de Información: Carl Strathmann and Maggie Beyer, already visited

Elgin Area Men's Shed: Fred Haas

Food For Greater Elgin: Maggie Beyer, already visited

Kane Senior Council: William Lucas

Northern Illinois Food Bank: Marilyn Burge, already visited

Prairie State Legal Services: William Lucas

Xilin: Marianne Rowe, already visited

Senior Services Associates: Alfredo Ramirez, already visited

Fox Valley Hands of Hope: Pedro Echevarria, already visited

Chinese Mutual Aid Association: David Teas, already visited

3. We still have a couple of members who need to take the Sexual Harassment Prevention, and Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act trainings.

4. David Teas announced that the Chinese Mutual Aid Association will have a picnic for the Golden Age Club on September 27th at 11am, and we are invited to attend.

5) Chairwoman Maggie Beyer mentioned that David Teas, Marilyn Burge, and Jeanette Mihalec were following up on the topic of helping seniors with their household tasks. David Teas explained that he contacted Cecilia Brooks and James Becker on the Committee on Youth, and they are interested in collaborating with the task to help seniors. David Teas also spoke with Mike Lawson with the Boy Scouts, and he also expressed interest. Now, we need to verify with Elgin Township if there are potential liabilities in coordinating the tasks such as raking leaves, and trimming branches through organizations such as the Boy Scouts. Township Administrator Jeanette Mihalec explained that Elgin Township's insurance company was concerned about the liabilities. As a result, it was decided to refer the senior tasks to Habitat for Humanity, and perhaps this organization can apply for Senior Services

Funding from Elgin Township next spring. According to Marilyn Burge, Habitat for Humanity has three different programs to help seniors. The Elgin Township is reviewing the insurance conditions and legal advice with the intent to help seniors without incurring any liabilities. David Teas mentioned ECC as a potential partner to help with the senior tasks, and we concluded that the intent was good, but we need to do what is good and safe for Elgin Township, too.

3. The sending of cards to seniors at senior facilities was a success, according to Chairwoman Maggie Beyer, and the seniors were very grateful. The Committee on Seniors (COS) will consider delivering cards for Christmas and Valentine's Day.

4. Chairwoman Maggie Beyer, asked about transportation for seniors, and Township Supervisor Ken Bruderle explained that personnel from Senior Services are available at the Township every Tuesday to assist seniors with questions about transportation options.

5. Due to early voting, space availability at Elgin Township is in conflict with Discuss and Discover. As a result, the monthly program was canceled for October.

6. It was discussed and decided that the role of the secretary for the 2025 Committee on Seniors, will be the responsibility of Alfredo Ramirez, David Teas, and Marilyn Burge. Each member will cover the secretary role for three consecutive meetings. Alfredo Ramirez will be the secretary for September, October, and January. David Teas will cover February, March, and April. Finally, Marilyn Burges will be the secretary for the months of May, June, and July 2025. A motion was made by David Teas to approve the idea of rotating the secretary role every three meetings starting in September. Motion was seconded by Pedro Echevarria. Motion carried. 7-0-0.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Elgin Community College (ECC) Arts Center Programs:

a. Deputy Clerk Mihalec reported that ECC was very pleased with the promotion of their student music performances by the Elgin Township and with the great response from Township Seniors. As a result, ECC is adding other performances for this fall, and those will be free to seniors with the Elgin Township Senior Access Pass. Additionally, the Senior Access Pass holders will have free access to 4 local museums, and free Monday lunches at the Township. We have over 1,100 Senior Access Pass holders.

b. Mr. Ken Bruderle, Elgin Township Supervisor, explained that there is an employee at the Township to drive the shuttle bus for senior activities such as the upcoming Christmas holidays.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Board Liaison Janet Rogalla brought up the idea of having a program for seniors on the topic of hoarding.

2. Chairwoman Maggie Beyer reminded the COS to keep searching for ideas and programs to help our seniors.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn from Marianne Rowe. Seconded by Carl Strathmann. Motion passed 7-0-0, and the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Alfredo Ramirez.

Alfredo Ramirez, Secretary

Date