



Agenda
Village of Arlington Heights
Youth Commission
Buechner Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd., 60005
November 9, 2021
6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes from September 23, 2021

IV. REPORTS

- A. Commission Reports
 - 1. Park District
 - 2. School District
 - 3. Library
 - 4. Police Department
 - 5. Commissioners at Large

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Student Snow Removal Program
- B. Teen Job Fair

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. New Suggestions

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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**Youth Commission
11/9/2021**

Item: Minutes from September 23, 2021

Department: Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
Minutes from September 23, 2021	Minutes



**Minutes
Village of Arlington Heights
Youth Commission
Buechner Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd., AH 60005
September 23, 2021
6:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Son called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present

Alice Son, Chairperson
Matt Healy
Officer Taryn Gombar
Chyrel Moore
Dr. Afroz Hafeez
Jennifer Borrell
Anayah Menzies-Thomas
Kendall Fahnoe

Absent

Connor Neill

Also Present

James McCalister, Commission Liaison
Tracey Colagrossi, Senior Center Manager

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from February 13, 2020

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY OFFICER GOMBAR TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF
THE FEBRUARY 13, 2020 MEETING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOORE
AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

IV. REPORTS

A. Police Department

Officer Gombar said the Police Department is in the process of hiring six officers. She said Hersey's Homecoming is October 15 and the dance is October 16.

B. School District

Commissioner Moore said everyone has returned to in-person in school.

C. Library

Chairperson Son said the Library has reopened and the hours are being extended. She said the Library has a teen space available and is doing a book read for the community. She mentioned the ribbon tying ceremony for the Maker's Place. She said the building was the original library in Arlington Heights and it now has a commercial kitchen, laser cutter, 3D machines, fleet of sewing machines, a space for art, and people onsite to help patrons.

D. Park District

Commissioner Healy said the Park District is hiring for many positions and the Teen Film Fest went well over the summer. He said a bigger event that they are looking for volunteers to help is Trunker Treat, taking place at Melas Park on October 30.

E. Students

Commissioner Fahnoe said students have returned to school fully in-person for over a month now. Commissioner Menzies-Thomas said they are getting ready for Homecoming, focusing on managing for the wrestling team, and working at the Children at Play (CAP) in Olive Mary Stitt Elementary School.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Student Snow Removal and Grass Cutting Program

Ms. Colagrossi said she is the Senior Center Manager and that the Student Snow Removal program has been running since 2017. She explained that they did a survey of the residents and the students to determine what people thought about the program. She said the results showed that people really like the program. She said there is the Constant Contact emailing list that is used to communicate program information. She said they had 195 residents and approximately 36 students participating in the program. She said the main focus is to get more students involved and is looking to the Youth Commission to recommend how to market the program to students. Mr. McCalister said the program originated from the Youth Commission and a teen on the Commission came up with the idea. He said the Commission passed out flyers in schools. Ms. Colagrossi said the program has expanded to grass cutting and have approximately 20 older adults in the program.

Commissioner Menzies-Thomas asked if there is an age limit for the students. Ms. Colagrossi said the age for students is middle school through high school. Ms. Colagrossi said the pricing is worked out between the student and the resident, and the Senior Center provides a benchmark for pricing. Ms. Moore said the snow can be difficult to shovel and asked if students can use a snow blower if one is available. Ms. Colagrossi said its preferable if students use their own equipment due to the liability. Commissioner Hafeez asked if students submit a registration form which covers them legally. Mr. McCalister said the legal department reviewed the documents and approved the documents. Ms. Colagrossi said the Village is providing the references and the agreement is

between the students and the residents. Ms. Colagrossi said the registration document includes a disclaimer that states “I hereby agree that I will indemnify and hold the Village of Arlington Heights harmless of and from any and all claims that may be made by any person or organization for personal injury and property as a result of participation in this Snow Shoveling Referral Program.” Commissioner Moore said that the schools and principals can share the information to help support the programs through announcements and social media. Commissioner Fahnoe said that students are looking for hours towards the Harper Promise. Ms. Colagrossi agreed that they can include that information as well when marketing the programs. Commissioner Menzies-Thomas said talking to other students will help promote the programs because not all students will see the information on flyers.

Commissioner Hafeez said the survey results indicated that 65% of residents who would like to be on the list did not connect with a student. He asked if the program be facilitated through another avenue to try and address the 65%. Mr. McCalister said Village Administration would need to review seeking services from a different organization to assist as the program was aimed more towards the teens. Commissioner Moore said the goal could be increase to 50 students, but at least create a target goal and work from there that might help increase student participation. Chairperson Son said a potential barrier could be lack of equipment and to ensure the students have equipment to participate in the program. Commissioner Moore said it might be helpful to include information about the equipment in the marketing documents. Commissioner Hafeez asked if the registration form is paper or a fillable form. Ms. Colagrossi said the registration form is available on paper, email or online. Commissioner Hafeez said a tip sheet for students would be helpful, such as wear your mask while cutting grass. Ms. Colagrossi said the communication information will be sent out in October.

B. Teen Job Fair

Chairperson Son said that the Teen Job Fair in 2021 was virtual at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library but said the location can be open to other locations. She said there has been an average of 10-15 businesses participating. She said the Teen Job Fair is usually in February or March, and students typically do not want to interview early for the summer, but businesses prefer to start early so this is something to consider. Commissioner Healy said the turnout of teens is positive, but the number of businesses has been a challenge and said the Commission should go visit the businesses to speak in-person about the Teen Job Fair. Commissioner Healy said the Arlington Ridge Center could be a location to hold the Teen Job Fair to accommodate social distancing. Commissioner Hafeez asked if the Teen Job Fair could be expanded to internships. Chairperson Son said in the past volunteer opportunities that are unpaid were available, but just that we are upfront with the teens that some opportunities may be unpaid. Commissioner Healy said the timing of the Teen Job Fair is important for the hiring and training process, but the teens may not be thinking about summer jobs that early in the year. Commissioner Fahnoe said the best time was when the Teen Job Fair was held early March because there is a two-week period where sports stop and students are available during the week. Commissioner Menzies-Thomas said it may be difficult based on when your birthday is because some students were under age 16. Chairperson Son said it might be helpful to prepare a list of businesses that will hire students under age 16. After discussion, the Commission agreed to hold the Teen Job Fair in early March 2022.

Mr. McCalister said that Raising Cain’s, a restaurant preparing to open in Arlington Heights, would like to participate in the next Teen Job Fair. Chairperson Son said that once the location and date is reserved, they can begin planning at the next meeting. She asked that the youth commissioners provide any information about what types of jobs teens would want to apply for at the Teen Job Fair. Commissioner Borrell said at the Teen Job Fair, could a list be collected asking teens if they are interested in signing up for jobs later in the year. Commissioner Healy said when the teens

arrive and check in, their information is collected at that time also so that might be when the information is collected.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner Hafeez said having a mentorship series, online guest speakers meeting students virtually, or having panels for students to learn more about programs or potential careers would be a project for the Commission. He also said the Commission could offering health education related to crisis in adolescence, such as opioid usage and vaping, or host a webinar series to educate students to help mitigate these issues. Commissioner Fahnoe said occasionally a guest speaker would come to school and it is a good idea. Commissioner Menzies-Thomas said they do have some guest speakers, but at a community level that might be helpful. She said that students may not really understand all the impacts of vaping. Commissioner Hafeez said topics could be focused on bringing awareness in the community, such as a health series. Commissioner Healy said maybe a topic once a semester or before the summer would work well. Commissioner Moore said maybe a health month and invite speakers to do a one-time event, similar to the Teen Job Fair. Mr. McCalister said the topic could be added to the next agenda so that the Commission could vote on a third new suggestion.

The Commission agreed that the third Thursday, October 21 will be the next meeting. Mr. McCalister said the Commission is still looking for youth commissioners and, in the past, the Commission had a teen from all area high schools.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER HAFEEZ, SECONDED BY OFFICER GOMBAR, MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:20 P.M. ALL CONCURRED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.