



**Minutes
Village of Arlington Heights
Youth Commission
Arlington Heights Memorial Library
500 N. Dunton Ave 2nd Floor, Room I
August 15, 2024
6:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Son called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone introduced themselves.

II. ROLL CALL

Present

Alice Son, Chairperson

Jennifer Borrell

Matt Healy

Taryn Gombar

Colin Smith

Sydney Galla

Michael Bauer

Riley Phillips

Christopher Hong

Ava McQuade

Also Present

James McCalister, Liaison

Kimberly Witt, Administrative Assistant

Alejandria Galarza, Teen Librarian

Absent

Afroz Hafeez

Lucy Jochaniewicz

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from June 20, 2024

A motion was made by Commissioner Hong to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2024 meeting, seconded by Commissioner McQuade and approved by unanimous consent.

IV. REPORTS

A. Library

Chair Son reported that summer reading has come to an end and they are thrilled to report it was a huge success! With the start of the school year, they are shifting gears into back-to-school mode. If you're a student at Buffalo Grove, Prospect, Rolling Meadows or Hersey – you'll likely see them on campus. They visit during lunch hour once a month for "Tinker Days".

Chair Son mentioned that the Teen Film Fest is tomorrow in the Hendrickson room, starting at 7:00 PM. If you love teen films, you won't want to miss it. The after-party with mocktails start at 9:00 PM after the library closes.

B. Park District

Commissioner Healy reported that the Park District is wrapping up summer and pools are beginning to close – many have already started shutting down. Special events are winding down.

Chair Son asked if the Park District hired many teen staff, given the Job Fair's focus on bringing in young workers for the summer. Commissioner Healy responded that the aquatics department sees the highest number of teen hires. This includes lifeguards, cashiers for concessions, swim lesson instructors, and swim team coaches. Additionally, summer camp staff, which often includes around a hundred members, also consists largely of teens. The Park District also recently launched CAP, the before and after-school program, which employs about 100 staff members, many of whom are high school and college students.

Hopefully, everyone had a chance to enjoy the park district. They are now ramping up for fall events.

C. Police Department

Commissioner Gombar reported that they are currently hiring many new officers. She also noted that National Night Out was a success this year, despite being held on a Thursday instead of the usual Tuesday. The change in date resulted in a greater number of vendors participating and higher turnout. Highlights of the event included a helicopter flying by at a low altitude and a variety of food trucks.

D. Schools

No report.

E. Members at Large

Commissioner Bauer from Rolling Meadows reported that the first day of school was a success. This year, the school schedule has been adjusted, with the school day now starting at 8:20 AM and ending at 3:10 PM, an increase of 20 minutes compared to last year's schedule of 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The change was made to meet the legally required instructional time, which had not been fully met since the onset of Covid. Chair Son mentioned that she saw Rolling Meadows school featured on ABC news for the first day of school. Liaison McCalister noted that Rolling Meadows has a new football coach, Robbie Gould. Commissioner Bauer plays percussion in the Marching Band and also works in theater tech.

Commissioner McQuade from Hersey reported that yesterday marked the first day of school. The schedule includes 8 periods, which everyone seems to dislike. She described the day as chaotic, particularly for incoming freshmen who were confused to learn that

their lunch period is based on their 5th-period teacher's last name rather than their own. Lunch hours are inconsistent: B lunch lasts 40 minutes, while C lunch extends for an hour. Additionally, she mentioned that football is gearing up, with the first scrimmage scheduled for August 22. As for cross country, the official season began this past Monday, but she has been involved in camp throughout the summer. Sports teams are currently holding tryouts and making cuts, and girls' flag football is getting underway.

Commissioner Galla from Prospect reported that things are much the same as at Hersey. She's already swamped with homework and found her schedule to be quite chaotic.

Commissioner Riley from Prospect reported that the lunchroom was so overcrowded that extra tables had to be brought out, and some students ended up sitting on the floor. She also noted that Homecoming is scheduled for September 14.

Commissioner Hong from Buffalo Grove reported that students need to scan their IDs to enter both the lunchroom and the library. Similar to other schools, the schedule is causing some confusion. The incoming freshman class is notably large, with around a couple hundred students. Additionally, the school is undergoing extensive renovations, with construction taking place throughout the outdoor areas.

Commissioner Smith from Viator reported that the first day of school was Tuesday. Everyone is adjusting to returning from summer break.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2024 Voting Awareness Project

Chair Son provided an overview of the 2024 Voting Awareness Project. During the previous meeting, a question was raised about the number of teen voters. To address this, she reviewed data from the US Census Bureau. According to the report, 60% of the overall population participates in voting, and among the 18 to 24 age group, approximately 50% are voters. The report shows that 18-year-old percent of reported voters are the lowest percentage and it increases as the age increases.

The Commission deliberated on whether to focus on this project and how to effectively reach and inform young people. They decided to implement a small-scale initiative featuring a poster with a QR code that links to reliable resources on voting and voting centers.

B. Fall/Winter Project

Chair Son discussed plans for a fall/winter project and mentioned that in the previous meeting, some Commissioners had proposed focusing on teen volunteering and encouraging the reduction of screen time. Most schools have service clubs that assist teens with their volunteer hours. There was also discussion about the value of reducing screen time for teens. The Commission decided to organize an event for volunteer services in late fall or early winter and to keep the issue of screen time reduction on the agenda every other month. In the upcoming meeting, the Commission will brainstorm ideas for a volunteer event.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hong, seconded by Commissioner Gombar, moved to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. all concurred and the motion carried unanimously.