

Minutes
Village of Arlington Heights
Senior Citizens Commission
Commissions Room-33 S Arlington Heights Road, A.H. 60005
September 16, 2024
7 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Viecelli called the meeting to order at 7 PM. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Sue Viecelli, Chair
Tim Carter
Corinne Drew
Fred Feldman
George Motto
Fred Vogt
Gary Wood
Ellyn Zimmerman

Also Present:

Tracey Colagrossi, Liaison

Not Present:

George Motto
Steve Raminiak

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 19, 2024

CHAIRPERSON VIECELLI REQUESTED A MOTION TO MOVE THE MINUTES. COMMISSIONER FELDMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VOGT. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2024, WERE APPROVED.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairperson

Chairperson Viecelli noted that she received a postcard from Representative Mark Walker's office. She added that there were informational numbers for seniors and had the Arlington Heights Senior Center number.

B. Liaison

Northern Illinois Center for Governmental Studies will conduct the Strategic Planning Workshop at Village Hall on August 28. Liaison Colagrossi thanked Commissioner Vogt for participating on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Vogt said he has attended many strategic planning sessions and was very impressed with the staff of NIU. The workshop members will rank short- and long-term goals by September 27. NIU will then help create an action plan for those goals.

Social Services agency Catholic Charities Northwest will continue to operate as a case coordination unit. Programs leaving the organization are Adult Protective Services, which is taken over by North Shore Senior Services in Northfield. The Kenneth Young Center is taking the Aging and Disability Resource Network. Chore House Keeping is handled by the Center of Concern. These agencies are in the process of hiring new staff. Manager Colagrossi has connected with the agencies to gauge interest in office space at the Senior Center.

Manager Colagrossi added that the executive director of Meals on Wheels Northeastern Illinois is no longer with the organization, effective Monday, September 10. Spencer Harstead is leading the transition to the new service. The same caterer will be used as the current program until things are up and running.

The commission inquired about the new television monitors for the central core of the Senior Center. Manager Colagrossi advised that the units have arrived and are awaiting installation from Public Works.

C. Non-for-Profit Corporation

The third annual pickleball tournament fundraiser was held on Saturday, September 14 at Dryden Courts in Arlington Heights. The tournament is for people aged 55 and older, with three levels of play for 72 participants. The event was well attended.

In addition, the Inc. Board is creating a new event "Casino Night Fun-Raiser" on Thursday, October 10 from 5 pm to 8 pm. We are looking for sponsorships for each of the 12 gaming tables and donations for baskets.

Staff and the Inc. Board are planning the "road show" concept, bringing the senior center (a class, music, food truck, art) to different areas within the Village to address the feedback regarding the distance of the senior center being far. Four events will be held in 2025.

D. Senior Center Advisory Council

The Oktoberfest Brat Cookout with performance from Alpine Thunder is on September 24. The event is sold out. A new event, in place of the Thanksgiving Event, is a Halloween Costume Party on October 30 with a DJ and prizes for best costumes. Then finally for 2024, we have a New Years Eve party on December 31 with George Holmes performing. Students from a soccer club will help with serving food at the New Years Eve party.

Commissioner Zimmerman inquired about other opportunities for older adults to work with the schools. She also suggested that perhaps the Youth Commission would be interested in helping at the event. Manager Colagrossi said she would inquire. She also mentioned that Volunteer Coordinator Nierman has created monthly programs for student groups and older adults to work together called Kids Connections.

E. Legislation

Commissioner Feldman reported that the General Assembly is still in recess and will convene for six days in November for the veto session.

F. Age-Friendly Community Certification

1. Transportation/Affordable Housing Report

Commissioner Feldman reported on the meeting from Monday, September 16, at 1 pm. Manager Colagrossi wrote to Pace to confirm the OnDemand and paratransit schedules. Also, the Pace Paratransit program is especially for individuals who were certified through the RTA. Paratransit also runs the same old bus routes and hours.

Commissioner Feldman added Pace OnDemand is limited by Euclid on the north, Arlington Heights Road on the east, Route 53 on the west, and I-90 on the south. Manager Colagrossi and Commissioner Feldman attended Cook County Commissioner Trevor's town hall on transportation services at Endeavor Health Northwest Community Hospital. The big issue is money and drivers. Pace representative, Steven Andrews indicated that utilization was also a factor. He indicated that for the Arlington Heights OnDemand service area, there's approximately 30 rides per day and they only have one vehicle covering the whole area.

Pace and the RTA are facing a 750 million shortfall which will occur in 19 in 2025 and 2026 when the COVID money runs out. Pace is working on a strategic plan called their Revision Plan. Pace is asking for public comment, which is listed on a flyer.

Commissioner Feldman also reported that Pace announced that their goal is to have a complete fleet of vehicles on electric by 2030. The CEO of Pace advised that they are trying to be creative with the funds. One example was utilizing a partnership with Lyft and Harper College to reduce fares for students.

Manager Colagrossi reported that she is creating a memo to the Village Manager regarding writing letters to elected officials to increase funding and expanding services in the northwest suburbs, particularly Arlington Heights. She also added that she is attending a meeting from AgeOptions on Thursday that will have the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, and the Active Transit Alliance. Manager Colagrossi will provide a report to the commission.

Commissioner Feldman reported in Commissioner Motto's absence that the Grace Terrace project was approved by the Board last month. Commissioner Vogt stated he attended the Housing Commissioners meeting. He added that the Housing Commission is interested in having a joint meeting with the Senior Citizens Commission. The Housing Commission was also interested in the presentation that Connections for the Homeless provided at the July meeting.

2. Communications

Chairperson Viecegli reported the subcommittee met before the regular meeting. The website draft is still being worked on by Manager Colagrossi and will give to Manager Meade to review. The October meeting will focus on the 2025 revision of the marketing plan.

Commissioner Raminiak is conducting a presentation at the Senior Center on September 24 at 7 pm on Guardianship 101.

G. Kenneth Hood Award

Commissioner Vogt reported that the Kenneth Hood Award was presented to Mr. Leo DeAngelis on Friday, September 13 at the Senior Center. Mayor Hayes, Village Manager Recklaus, Director McCalister, Commissioners Adams, Viecegli, Wood and Vogt were present as well as other Senior Health Insurance Counselors.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Viecegli remarked that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21 at 7 pm.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

CHAIRPERSON VIECELLI REQUESTED A MOTION TO ADJORN. COMMISSIONER FELDMAN MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VOGT. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:44 PM.