



Agenda
Village of Arlington Heights
Senior Citizens' Commission
Commissions Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005
April 17, 2017
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes from 3/20/17

IV. REPORTS

- A. Chairperson
- B. Senior Center Manager
- C.
 - 1. Not for Profit Corporation
 - 2. Senior Center Advisory Council
 - 3. Legislation

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Goal Setting

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Announcements/Correspondence

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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Item: Minutes from 3/20/17

Department: hs

Minutes from 3/20/17

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

March SC minutes

Type

Minutes

**Village of Arlington Heights
Senior Citizens' Commission
Minutes from March 13, 2017**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Foss called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Sharon Foss, Fred Feldman, Dottie Hardy, Dr. George Motto, Maureen Seleski, George Weber, and Tem Williams

Absent: Sharon Adams and Erwin Campbell

Also Present: Brian Meyer, Director of Recreation and Facilities, Arlington Heights Park District; James McCalister, Village of Arlington Heights Health & Human Services Director, and Karie Van Grinsven, Senior Center Program Coordinator

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER FELDMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2017 MEETING OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS' COMMISSION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOTTO. ALL CONCURRED AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairperson

Chairperson Foss noted that there was an opening on the Commission and asked that if Commissioners knew of anyone good, that they should encourage them to send a letter to the Village (President). Chairperson Foss noted that she had received notice of the CDBG funds availability. The deadline for applications is May 1st. She noted that the statements of economic disclosure were due.

B. Senior Center Manager

Karie Van Grinsven reported that Pinball machines would soon be coming to Senior Center. She also reported that Past Commissioner Frank De Rosa's organization (793rd Military Association) fundraiser at Portillo's on Dundee today. She noted that the Senior Center Manager attended meeting with the Northwest Suburban Housing Collaborative on March 9th to discuss the possible Health/Housing Initiative. The idea is to possibly develop something like the CAPABLE Program in Baltimore. She reported that the tax season was busy. Commissioner Weber had put together a Medicare presentation through the Senior Health Insurance Program for March 29th in the evening. She noted

that the annual report was (mostly) out. Chairperson Foss suggested the Senior Center provide a speaker from Social Security on Social Security.

James McCalister reported that there had been discussions with the Park District about having the Village Nurses do quarterly blood pressure readings at Camelot Park.

C. Senior Impact Reports

1. Not for Profit Corporation

Arlington Heights Senior Center, Inc. will be hosting its annual golf outing fundraiser in July and the Senior Housing and Services Fair is scheduled for September.

2. Senior Center Advisory Council

Karie Van Grinsven provided an update on the Advisory Council's programming. The council has planned programs for the months of May through September thus far and is considering repeating the Variety Show and sponsoring a New Year's "Eve Eve Eve" party on December 29th. The first program of the season will be a spring musical performance by the Harmonaires on May 25th, followed by the traditional hot dog cookout, ice cream social, Reunion Jazz Orchestra concert and brat cookout.

3. Legislation

Commissioner Feldman reported that there was very little activity at the Federal level. He noted that the American Health Care Act did not have agreement on the form. It appears to be amending the Affordable Health Care Act.

He reported that there were a couple of quasi legislative actions taken. The Department of Labor under President Obama had enacted the fiduciary rule that said that financial advisors counseling people on their retirement investments were fiduciaries of the client and were responsible to act in the interest of the client and not in the interest of the security of the representative himself. President Trump has asked for a review of that declaration by the Department of Labor. It is presently stalled and is predicted that they "will probably kill it."

The House of Representatives Joint Resolution 66, as part of the Congressional Review Act which repeals rules by the Department of Labor during 2016 to insure that states have the right to pass laws insuring workplace retirement savings for private sector employees.

Illinois was the first state in the nation to pass Secure Choice Savings Program Act, which when launched on January 21, 2018 will provide access to Roth IRA for over 1,500,000 Illinois workers who currently cannot save for retirement at work. The measure will go to the United States Senate. The State plans to maintain the Illinois Act even if the federal regulation is repealed.

General Assembly has seventy-seven bills pending that bear on senior citizens and disabled, with fourteen different bills which focus on Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze, the Homestead Exemption, and Senior Citizens homestead exemption. These exemptions have to be filed annually to be included on the second installment of the (property) tax bill. These included minor changes, such as age and income limits for qualifications.

HB 592 amends the Property tax code; if passed, it will provide that the aggregate tax rate imposed by all taxing districts on any parcel of residential property that as of January 1 of the taxing year has been occupied by a qualified taxpayer, residing there as the principal dwelling place for thirty years or more shall not exceed \$5.00 per \$100.00. A qualified taxpayer is someone who is 65 years or older, is liable for paying taxes on the property, and is the record owner of property. If passed, it will go into immediate effect.

HB 693 amends the Illinois insurance code and provides that medical insurance co-pays will not be able to exceed 50 % of the total bill charges for health care services provided.

HB 3079 amends the property tax code and provides that in counties greater than 3,000,000, the Senior Citizens Homestead exemption, the senior citizens freeze, the general homestead exemption will increase the maximum deduction, but it doesn't give an absolute amount. It was assigned to the Revenue and Finance Committee in February and on March 9 they sent it to a property tax subcommittee for hearings.

HB 3921 amends the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Practices Act and will provide that a person 65 and older may cancel certain contracts within 15, rather than 3 days after the contract is signed. This applied to contracts for the sale of the merchandise in which the price is in excess of \$25.00.

HB3624 amends the property tax code. It provides a real property improved with a permanent structure during the tax year and occupied as a resident by a senior citizen for at least 20 years, and is liable for the taxes on the property; the total tax liability shall not exceed 10 % of the total household income of the members of the household.

SB 1566 amends the medical assistance article of Public Aid code and requires that disregard life insurance assets up to \$200,000 when determining if a person 60 years of age or older meets the income and asset eligibility requirements for home and community based services authorized under the Social Security Act.

HB 3392, as published by the General Assembly reports to change the title of the law. The Bill seeks to prohibit the "dumping" of difficult nursing home patients into hospitals and will more closely regulate ratios in nursing homes.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Goal Setting

Commissioner Motto reported on heading to the American Society on Aging Conference. He noted that livable communities were a “hot topic.” He indicated he’d like to further discuss it at a future meeting. James McCalister noted that “Healthy Hot Spots” were listed on the Cook County Department of Public Health’s website.

Commissioner Seleski noted similarities to Healthy Arlington and asked if a survey was still planned. Chairperson Foss indicated yes, but that she wanted to hear what Commissioner Motto had to say when he returned from the conference. She reported that the Senior Citizens Commission budget had paid for Commissioner Motto’s (registration) fee for the conference.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Foss introduced James McCalister, the Director of Health & Human Services and then Brian Meyers from the Arlington Heights Park District.

A. Brian Meyers, Arlington Heights Park District

Commissioner Williams outlined the history of correspondence with prior Arlington Heights Park District Executive Directors and asked if there had been any progress on the warm water therapy pool. Mr. Meyers reported that the Park District was working on the recent 16 retirements. He noted that the Board was working on a new Community Needs Assessment that will help shape the future of the park district to see where their monies would best be spent. He noted that current concerns were tax freezes and aging facility infrastructure. He spoke of the 2013 referendum that would have allowed reconstruction on pools that did not pass. He noted that Camelot had been refurbished with a track because they had received a park grant. He noted that right now walking is the biggest exercise at present. He noted that Commissioner Williams had attended a recent board meeting. He noted that the Community Needs Assessment should drive these decisions and the Park District would be seeking companies to put it out in the spring. Commissioner Williams asked who the Commission would talk to about the community assessment, as walking tracks existed, but that there was nowhere within the Village where a therapy pool already exists, and her hopes that the therapy pool could be pushed up as a community need. Mr. Meyers responded that the Park District was responsible to listen to the needs of 78,000 residents and the therapy pool could be one of them. The Park Board would be tasked in the prioritizing of those projects. He stated that a therapy pool might be part of a bigger project, something to be determined by the Board.

Commissioner Williams asked how the Commission reaches these people to find out what the majority of the people want. She stated that it could be a fundraiser for the Park District. She reported that of all the physical therapy places in Arlington Heights, not one has a therapy pool. Commissioner Seleski asked whether it had to

be called a therapy pool. Commissioner Seleski indicated that if it was listed in the survey as a therapy pool, some people might think they don't need that or that they might think the pool was just for therapy. Commissioner Motto noted that the pool at the hospital was a warm water therapy pool. Commissioner Seleski indicated she'd been on the planning committee for it and it had been called a warm water pool.

Mr. Meyers indicated that he was sure that there would be questions on the survey about what kinds of projects the residents would be looking for. He noted when the referendum did not go through, that one of the questions had been whether or not residents wanted a main recreation center in the middle of town. It came back that people wanted their neighborhood centers. He noted that the last community assessment was in 2009. Commissioner Hardy suggested that the warm water pool needs to be identified as part of a larger project. Commissioner Williams suggested to Mr. Meyers that he run the verbiage before the Commission before the survey is mailed out. Mr. Meyers noted it might not be geared toward that specific a project. He stated he did not think that when the survey was being formulated, the Park District would be running it past specific groups. He indicated that "you'd want to keep it as neutral as possible." Commissioner Williams indicated it was possible to put in a warm water pool next to the pool at Olympic, eliminated the need for another building and parking. Commissioner Seleski asked if the survey would be run past the Park District Board and he indicated it would be.

Mr. Meyers suggested that many empty nesters had voted down the previous referendum. He stated that the board would be tasked with evaluating those needs. He noted that Commissioner Williams came to board meetings. Commissioner Williams asked if Mr. Meyers would keep the Commission informed.

Chairperson Foss asked whether Olympic was scheduled for any kind of rehabbing. He stated that the Park District was always looking to see if they could get another year out of "non-sexy" items like roof top units. Commissioner Foss noted the condition of the bathhouse at Rec Park. Mr. Meyers noted that the Park District was aware that it (Arlington Heights) was a "huge swim community." Mr. Meyers noted that even the pools that had been rehabbed, that was done nearly twenty years ago. Chairperson Foss noted that more needed to be done than just maintain. Commissioner Hardy noted that everything we have (in the community) is "top notch" and this is a relatively small thing to ask for and it will serve a lot of people. Mr. Meyers noted that all the data shows that Arlington Heights is getting older. Commissioner Motto said the (current) tone is "livable communities." Mr. Meyers noted that the Park District is working with the Village of Arlington Heights on Walk Arlington. Mr. Meyers noted that (Park Board President) recognizes that Arlington Heights is an aquatic community.

Mr. Meyers noted that Commissioner Williams had come to the Park Board to discuss discounts for seniors. He stated that the Park District has a great tuition subsidy, a great cooperative program with the Village of Arlington Heights. He noted that there have been times where there have been a "couple hundred" families on the program. He indicated that there was a fine line when discussing discounts in one segment of the population, as there are many that can use the discounts. He suggested that he'd be more open to "value add" such as when a senior needs a discount, to make it an

aquatic discount. Commission Williams suggested a slight discount, such as \$5.00 off after the age of 65, with another dollar off for each birthday. Mr. Meyers suggested that the Park District would like to center those discounts based on need. He noted that if people (with discounts) were in the program, no one would know that they were in the program (due to discounts) and this protects their anonymity. He noted that the Park District has started a “tragic event discount” which gives discounts of up to a year for families that need it. He noted that the Park District doesn’t publicize this.

Commissioner Seleski noted that something the if the empty nesters had been difficult in the last referendum, Park District Board might want to consider instead of offering a discount for persons over age 65, to offer a free day of class, one free “try out your Park District again” to encourage people to reinvest in their Park District. Mr. Meyers noted that the Park District used nearly a full page of their program guides to promote their free programs. He noted that the Park District works with grandparents who have children with them for the summer. He thanked the Commission for having him and indicated he would take their comments back to the Park District and keep the Commission apprised.

Commissioner Motto recommended that all stakeholders work together because so many people are doing things, such as safety, Walk Arlington...that this would be a good time to get stakeholders together to coordinate things. Mr. Meyers indicated that Arlington Heights was the strongest partnership community that he’d encountered.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Announcements/Correspondence

Commissioner Weber provided an update on the Kenneth Hood Award. Chairperson Foss reported she had reviewed the labels and provided updated corrections. Karie Van Grinsven reported that Vicki had come in and stuffed the envelopes.

Commissioner Williams noted that she had provided several articles for “Sensational Seniors” column for the Daily Herald, but these had not been used.

Commissioner Seleski passed out flyers noting the ETS fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen on April 19th.

B. Next Meeting: April 17, 2017

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**COMMISSIONER HARDY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SELESKI,
MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:25 PM. ALL CONCURRED.**