

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Sue Viecegli, Chair

Sharon Adams

Tim Carter

Corinne Drew

Fred Feldman

George Motto

Steve Raminiak

Fred Vogt

Gary Wood

Ellyn Zimmerman

Also Present:

Tracey Colagrossi, Liaison

Not Present:

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 18, 2024

CHAIRPERSON VIECELLI REQUESTED A MOTION TO MOVE THE MINUTES. COMMISSIONER MOTTO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ADAMS. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2024, WERE APPROVED.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairpersons Report

Chairperson Viecegli had nothing to report.

B. Liaison Report

Liaison Colagrossi reported that the January and February newsletters have been mailed to subscribers. Erin Mercado, the Village's Social Services Coordinator, is no longer with the Village. The Department of Health & Human Services is accepting applications to fill the position, which still has a geriatric focus. We are continuing the Grief Support Group with a second 8-week session beginning January 16 through March 6.

The agencies are competing in a Winter Door Decorating contest this year. Patrons are voting and can win a free year's subscription to the newsletter. The agency with the most votes gets a pizza party. Mary Jo Lepo, Supervisor with the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, retired after twenty-three years. Katherine Myers is serving as the Interim Supervisor at this time.

C. Non-for-Profit Corporation

The Arlington Heights Senior Center, Inc. Foundation met in early December to approve funding requests from Connections to Care for marketing the organization and subsidizing rides for low-income older adults. Additionally, they funded requests from the Village for programs like Great Decisions and Metropolis and entertainment and food for Advisory Council programs.

D. Senior Center Advisory Council

The Advisory Council will hold its last program of the year on New Year's Eve, with entertainer George Holmes and catering by Daves Specialty Foods. The council is working on its slate of events for 2025, which should be ready for the next meeting.

E. Legislation

Commissioner Feldman reported that since the last meeting, he has contacted Mary Beth Canty and Mark Walker's offices, asking for any assistance they can give in identifying bills or acts that were enacted affecting seniors. Neither directly tracks specific subject matter legislation, but they directed him to the Illinois Department of Aging, which does a summary at the end of each session.

The summary lists 24 bills, which are administrative, organizational, and agency-related bills. Nothing directly affects senior citizens, the residents of the Village. However, with this on trade, perhaps when the General Assembly reconvenes in January, Commissioner Feldman can connect with the Illinois Department of Aging to see if they practice the bills relating to senior citizens, even if they don't pass. Liaison Colagrossi noted she knows someone in the department and will see who she can contact for information.

F. Age-Friendly Community Certification

1. Transportation/Affordable Housing Report

Commissioner Feldman reviewed the bullet point memo and the list of reasons for expanding funding for public transportation in Arlington Heights. The commissioners are writing individual letters to local and state officials on their positions to expand services to evenings and weekends for adults and disabled people. Commissioner Feldman also added that the book "Longevity Hubs" is a book that the commission should be interested in reading. <https://www.amazon.com/Longevity-Hubs-Regional-Innovation-Global/dp/026204921X/> Liaison Colagrossi said she will look into purchasing a copy for the commission for the new year.

Commissioner Raminiak stated he and Commissioner Vogt attended the last Housing Commission meeting and spoke to the commissioners about housing subsidies for older adults to remain in their homes and to use the affordable housing trust. Commissioner Raminiak stated they were receptive to that concept and wanted to learn more.

The Senior Citizens Commission is hosting a listening session as part of the Age-Friendly Arlington Heights initiative, and the topic of housing subsidies will be discussed with attendees. The session is scheduled at the Senior Center **on** Wednesday, January 29, at 5 PM.

2. Communications

Chairperson Viecelli reported that the subcommittee met before the regular meeting. The Senior Center Manager and Program Coordinator have been receiving Facebook training from the Administration. They will undergo further training before the site's official launch.

The listening session advertisement flyer was reviewed. Commissioners discussed that the flyer required more clarification regarding affordable housing and what the session would cover.

G. Kenneth Hood Award

Nothing to report.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Viecelli remarked that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 27 at 7 pm.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

CHAIRPERSON VIECELLI REQUESTED A MOTION TO ADJORN. COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER RAMINIAK. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00PM.