



AGENDA
ARLINGTON ECONOMIC ALLIANCE
Community Room, 3rd Floor
Arlington Heights Village Hall, 33 S. Arlington Heights Rd.
Arlington Heights IL 60005
March 19, 2025
7:30 AM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. January 15, 2025
- IV. REPORTS
 - A. Development Update
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Economic Alliance Work Plan - 2025
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. High School District 214 Update
 - B. Village Board Strategic Priorities
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to speak on a subject not on the Agenda may speak at this time. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, such as an American Sign Language interpreter or written materials in accessible formats, should contact the Health & Human Services Department, at 33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, healthmail@vah.com or 847/368-5760.

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARLINGTON ECONOMIC ALLIANCE HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2025 AT 7:30 A.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andrew Stengren – Chairman
Tony Guido
Heather Larson
Michael Mulder
Kerri Oots
Marc Poulos
Brian Roginski

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tonia Etoh
Terry Iverson
Ellen Para
John Toliopoulos
Andi Ruhl

STAFF PRESENT:

Michael Mertes – Business Development Manager

ALSO PRESENT:

Martin Bauer, Resident
Mary Ellen Graf, Township High School District 214
Keith Moens, Resident

Call to Order

Chairman Andrew Stengren called the meeting to order at 7:33 AM.

Approval of Minutes – November 20, 2024

The meeting minutes of November 20, 2024 Arlington Economic Alliance meeting were reviewed.

MARC POULOS MOVED AND HEATHER LARSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT NOVEMBER 20, 2024 ARLINGTON ECONOMIC ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES. ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

Development Update

The Village Board approved continuing the Sounds of Summer concert series on Thursday evenings only, from June through August. A community survey, with nearly 500 responses, favored keeping the Sounds of Summer dates on Thursday evenings only. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was approved between taxing districts and ownership of the Arlington Park property. The MOU can be accessed on the Village website.

Mr. Roginski asked about the Alfresco start date for 2025, and Mr. Mertes confirmed that it would be May 2. Chair Stengren asked that the Alliance be informed regarding significant developments in the Village. Ms. Larson asked about the status of the Arlington Gateway project, Mr. Mertes said that construction is underway on the first phase of the project, which includes approximately 300 residential units and 25,000 square feet of commercial space. Regarding Mr. Mulder's inquiry about the status of Arlington 425, Mr. Mertes replied that the Village Board approved an extension of the developer's zoning entitlements until May, and that the developer has submitted for permits

Economic Alliance Work Plan – 2025

Mr. Mertes introduced a draft work plan for the Economic Alliance, based on Commissioners' suggestions from previous meetings. The two key items focused on were continuing "notes of appreciation" to existing businesses, and holding multiple events in support of small businesses including a "State of the Village" address by the Mayor. Chair Stengren supports the "notes of appreciation" effort, while Ms. Larson added that some communities call new businesses. Mr. Mertes explained that he provides a welcome packet to new businesses.

DRAFT

Ribbon cuttings are typically done through the Chamber, but businesses can also do a ribbon cutting on their own volition.

Chair Stengren suggested media coverage and asked about live broadcasting of the "State of the Village" address. Mr. Mertes explained that an invite to the program would be sent out to the Village's business contacts, and that he would look into a live broadcasting option. While the Village has equipment to record meetings in the Board room, it's likely that the room wouldn't be large enough to hold the full audience for such an event. Mr. Poulos noted that addresses to the Rotary are usually well-attended.

Mr. Mulder asked if other speakers are being considered, and Ms. Larson recommended just having the Mayor as the featured speaker, in line with similar engagements in other communities. Also, breakfast or lunch programs are typical for a "State of the Village" address. Chair Stengren anticipates the program growing and evolving in the future.

KERRI OOTS MOVED AND HEATHER LARSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2025 ARLINGTON ECONOMIC ALLIANCE WORK PLAN. ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

Other Business and Public Comment

Ms. Larson discussed *Restaurant Week* for which Meet Chicago Northwest is conducting a \$50,000 marketing campaign. There is no cost for restaurants to take part. Last year, 25 Arlington Heights restaurants participated. The event runs from February 28 through March 9. Chair Stengren suggested that the Alliance could help promote *Restaurant Week* in the future.

Mr. Guido discussed the Chicago Auto Show which runs from February 8-17 at McCormick Place. Chair Stengren asked the Commission to think of ways to promote or assist various segments of the Arlington Heights business community, and asked the Commissioners to think about ways the Alliance can help promote their respective industries. Mr. Mulder suggested having various industry weeks or events, and video recording segments (such as interviews with business owners) then putting the content on social media.

During public comment, Mr. Bauer stated that he has been attending various Village Commission meetings and mentioned his appreciation for the involvement by community residents and business representatives.

Adjournment

HEATHER LARSON MOVED AND MICHAEL MULDER SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 AM.

Andrew Stengren, Chair
Arlington Economic Alliance

Prepared by Department of Planning & Community Development

Arlington Economic Alliance

2025 Work Plan – January 2025

Overview

In 2024, the Arlington Economic Alliance made substantive efforts to assist businesses within the Village. A summary of key accomplishments includes:

- Hosting *The Economy in Focus*, a small business breakfast program at the Metropolis Ballroom that featured Jason Turner, economist for Wintrust, as the keynote speaker; approximately 60 people attended
- Recommending, to the Village Board, modifications to the small business Zero Interest Loan Program by creating the Microloan and Mega Loan options; these changes were unanimously approved by the Board
- Supporting *Advanced CNC Manufacturing*, an educational program that provided tours of two Arlington Heights manufacturers to High School District 214 students; in addition, the students were presented with information on manufacturing as a potential viable career path, especially for those not seeking a traditional four-year college degree
- Mailing handwritten notes of appreciation to businesses celebrating the five-year or ten-year anniversary of their opening in Arlington Heights

For the Commission's 2025 work plan, the Economic Alliance would like to focus on business retention and has outlined the following initiatives to help support existing businesses in Arlington Heights:

➤ Small Business Programs and Events

The Arlington Economic Alliance intends to continue informing and educating small business owners through multiple programs in 2025. These could be in the form of seminars and forums, or could be in the form of supporting existing events and programs currently being undertaken by community partners. The first of these would be a "State of the Village" address, hosted by the Alliance.

Additional programs and events will be discussed and formulated by the Commission throughout the year. These programs may be used as channels to promote resources available to small businesses, provide industry-specific content, and offer pathways for students to connect with local employers in order to discover potential career opportunities.

➤ Notes of Appreciation to Businesses

The Alliance again plans to handwrite notes with uniform messaging to businesses that are celebrating their five-year and ten-year anniversaries in Arlington Heights. In 2024, 69 such notes were sent out, which expressed gratitude for the business and offered the Alliance's assistance. Included with each message was a reference card that summarizes the intent, purpose, and responsibilities of the Commission, as well as the names of the current commissioners. The list of recipients would again be provided by Village staff, based upon approved business licenses from 2015 and 2020.

Summary

The Arlington Economic Alliance continues to seek ways to support the small business community, and this work plan serves as a guide for 2025. The Alliance may also consider other projects, not identified in this plan, as the year progresses. Furthermore, the Commission offers its assistance to provide advisement and recommendations to the Village Board at their request, and to discuss any economic development matters as needed.



VILLAGE OF
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
INC. 1887

3/19/2025

Item: High School District 214 Update
Department: Planning & Community Development

Item Description:

ATTACHMENTS:

None



VILLAGE OF
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
INC. 1887

3/19/2025

Item: Village Board Strategic Priorities
Department: Planning & Community Development

Item Description:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Economic Alliance Letter to Village Board - 2023

April 19, 2023

The Honorable Mayor Thomas W. Hayes
and the Trustees of the Village of Arlington Heights
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd.
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Dear Mayor Hayes and Village Trustees:

As part of your upcoming strategic planning process, the Arlington Economic Alliance respectfully submits the following key areas of economic development for consideration. These points of focus were discussed in detail at the Commission's March meeting, and combine some elements of last year's letter with some newer aspects of the current local economy that we feel are worth sharing. We understand that not every item outlined in this letter may be included in your next set of strategic priorities, but we are grateful for your consideration of what is outlined below.

Input Regarding Arlington Park Redevelopment

Redevelopment of the Arlington Park property will be one of the most significant developments in the history of Arlington Heights. As an advisory commission to the Village Board, the Arlington Economic Alliance would like to be kept abreast on the progress of this development. As community business leaders, the Commissioners bring a wealth of experience in their respective industries. At the Board's request, the Alliance would be grateful to offer their consultation and expertise regarding this project. Whatever is built on the site will have a tremendous impact on the Village's economy, and the Economic Alliance is eager to offer input.

Investment in the South Arlington Heights Road Corridor

South Arlington Heights Road is a key Village gateway from Chicago, O'Hare International Airport, the northwest suburbs and beyond. The intersections at Algonquin Road and Golf Road are home to vibrant businesses and the bulk of our hotel properties. The Alliance acknowledges efforts that have gone into enhancing the corridor, and continues to advocate for improvements such as beautification, better pedestrian mobility, as well as more restaurants and entertainment. Hotels along this corridor will continue to bring travelers. The aforementioned improvements will create a more welcoming visitor experience including return visits and future economic impact.

Further Development of Vehicle Charging Station Infrastructure

Some auto manufacturers are planning to go entirely electric by 2025 and the demand for such vehicles will only increase in the coming years. The Alliance feels that it is important for Arlington Heights to be a leader in providing the infrastructure to support this. Potential residents who drive electric vehicles or hybrids will be attracted to housing that offers charging stations, and commercial properties with chargers can allow for customers to dine and shop while waiting for their vehicles' batteries to refill. The Village should consider expanding the installation of charging stations where possible, or incentivizing residential and commercial properties to do so.

Support of Arlington Alfresco

Begun as a way to aid our restaurants during the pandemic, Arlington Alfresco has grown into one of the Chicago area's premier dining experiences. Ongoing investment into this program will help Downtown Arlington Heights continue to thrive and be a destination for years to come. It is understood that many considerations need to be given to make any expansion feasible, and continued support to non-restaurants is also important. Reinvestment in Arlington Alfresco will help ensure our Downtown is a special and desirable place to shop, dine, live, and work.

Promotion of Manufacturing and Industry

Manufacturing and industry play a major role in our economy. In Arlington Heights, such properties total 5.4 million square feet of tenant space and employ 3,200 people. Manufacturing today is far cleaner and safer than many perceive, and salaries are 18% higher than the national average (NAM.org). Yet there is a shortage of skilled workers. Many companies provide both financial and educational support to their employees, offering a legitimate career path with little or no debt. By promoting this industry, and looking for ways to educate high school students about manufacturing as a fulfilling career, we can further invest in this key element of our economy.

Implementation of “Buy Local” Programs

Arlington Heights has a large and diverse business community. As such, many small businesses struggle to make themselves known. Well-planned “Buy Local” events could help steer attention to these independent brick-and-mortar businesses. Furthermore, incentivizing demand for residents to patronize these locations would help keep tax dollars in the Village, reduce vacancy rates, and help ensure that these businesses become further integrated into the community.

Utilization of Long-Term Community Branding

As the Village nears completion of its rebranding project, it is important to plan for how the new logo, tagline, and ad series will be used over the next several years. Planning a strategy to utilize this branding will help determine the best channels for promoting the Village and ideally bring new residents, visitors, and businesses to the community.

Consideration of Increase in Staffing as Needed

The Arlington Park redevelopment will require extensive Staff time for review and approvals. Other important projects will come up during this time that will also require detailed review. Consideration of increased staffing, or providing additional assistance or resources for existing staff, may help ensure that review, approvals, and inspections of other projects are not slowed down during the time that a formal Arlington Park redevelopment plan is under review.

Contemplation of a Village Shuttle

With the redevelopment of Arlington Park, as well as other planned and approved developments within the community, the number of visitors and residents should increase substantially. Coordination of a shuttle service, like the Rosemont Circulator or Schaumburg Trolley, could connect major commercial corridors such as Downtown, Arlington Park, and the hotels. This would further incentivize people to stay in Arlington Heights and bring traffic to other Village restaurants and attractions.

Summary

The Arlington Economic Alliance welcomes the Village Board’s feedback and opportunity to further discuss these items. As the appointive body for economic development matters in Arlington Heights, we appreciate the Board’s consideration of these ideas, and look forward to additional opportunities to help support our local economy.

Sincerely,



Andrew Stengren
Chair – Arlington Economic Alliance