

Minutes
Village of Arlington Heights
Senior Citizens Commission
Commissions Room-33 S Arlington Heights Road, A.H. 60005
June 16, 2025
7 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Sue Viecegli

Sharon Adams

Tim Carter

Corinne Drew

Fred Feldman

George Motto

Steve Raminiak

Gary Wood

Fred Vogt, Chair

Ellyn Zimmerman

Also Present: ☐

Tracey Colagrossi, Liaison

Danuta Malczewska

Not Present:

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 19, 2025, Minutes

CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2025, BE ACCEPTED. COMMISSIONER FELDMAN MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VIECELLI. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2025, WERE ACCEPTED.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairpersons Report

Chairperson Vogt had nothing to report.

B. Liaison Report

Senior Center Manager Tracey Colagrossi reported that a new Health and Human Services Director has been hired and began on Monday, June 16. Mila Tsagalis has more than 25 years of experience. She is a seasoned public health leader known for her collaborative approach, innovative solutions, and compassionate service. Mila joins the Village from the DuPage County Health Department, where she spent 25 years, most recently serving as Director of Community Initiatives. In that role, she led strategic partnerships with government agencies, law enforcement, schools, and community organizations to help tackle key public health issues. She managed a team of more than 10 employees and oversaw a \$1.8 million budget dedicated to

outreach and programs that enhanced community well-being. Mila also previously served as Assistant Director of Dental Health Services, where she oversaw mobile clinics for at-risk children and developmentally disabled adults, established advisory committees, and coordinated volunteer efforts to expand access to care for underserved populations.

Mila was also a member of the DuPage County Health Department's Senior Leadership Team and is widely recognized for her ability to bring people together to find solutions that support healthier, safer communities.

The department also has a new part-time Health Nurse, Natalie Austin, who also started today. She replaces Michelle Finn.

A reminder that the Volunteer Recognition event is **on Tuesday, June 24.**

Programs and participation have been highly active. The National Senior Health and Fitness Day had 130 participants. A survey was given to attendees, which will be evaluated for improvements for next year. So far, people have been pleased with the health screenings and the keynote speaker.

C. Non-for-Profit Corporation

The Arlington Heights Senior Center, Inc. Foundation's second Roadshow event will take place **on Thursday, June 19**, at Lake Arlington. Kona Ice and free Kayaking Lessons will be held on-site, and agency partners will be present to inform attendees about our services.

The next fundraising event for the foundation is the Live Well, Age Well Expo, Aloha to Wellness, on Thursday, June 29, from 11 am to 1 pm. Vendors pay between \$300-\$750 for a booth space to network with others and exhibit their organization. The vendor and community resource organizations have sold out, and no exhibit space is available. The event is expected to attract up to 250 people.

The Liaison proposed a funding request to the foundation for translation services for the brochures that the Commission and staff had worked on to promote Village Services and Aging Resources. The board approved up to \$5,000 for translations into five languages spoken in the Village for six documents.

D. Senior Center Advisory Council

The Advisory Council hosted its annual Hot Dog cookout for 85 people, who enjoyed patriotic music and decorations. The remaining events for the year are

Ice Cream Social: August 21 from 1:30 to 3 pm

Oktoberfest Brat Cookout: September 26 from 1 to 2:30 pm

Halloween Costume Party: October 30 from 1 to 2:30 pm

New Year's Eve-Eve Party: December 30 from 1:30 to 3 pm

E. Legislation

Commissioner Feldman reported that the General Assembly is in recess, and of the 10 or 12 bills he has been following, none were enacted during this session. House Bill 1226 changes the restrictions on drivers needing to take the driver's test from those aged 79 to 86 to only those aged 87 and older. The Bill has been approved in both houses and is awaiting the Governor's signature. Liaison Colagrossi advised that historically, older adult bills are signed during the State Fair "Senior Day" in August.

The other legislative matter that was not addressed was the appropriation of funds for the \$771 million budget shortfall for public transit. There's a meeting with the board of directors of Pace on Wednesday. Commissioner Feldman will monitor that meeting to see if they will discuss the shortfall at all, as they had been lobbying the General Assembly for more money. Liaison Colagrossi emailed Pace representative Steven Andrews and is awaiting a response. Additionally, it was reported that a work group is getting together for the summer to look at it.

F. Age-Friendly Community Certification

1. Transportation/Affordable Housing Report

Chairperson Vogt reported that the Commissioners Corner in the newsletter features the Housing Affordability Survey, which has been mailed to subscribers and is also available online. Additionally, it will be posted in the next e-blast, allowing people to link directly to the survey, and will also be available in hard copy at the Senior Center. Volunteers are entering the data manually. The survey will be up until the end of July.

Commissioner Raminiak stated that the purpose of the survey was to gauge the number of older adults in the area who may require a subsidy to remain in their homes.

Chairperson Vogt advised that he attended an online meeting with the Village of Mount Prospect's Health and Human Services Director, Arlington Heights' Health and Human Services staff, and consultants hired by Mount Prospect to conduct a transit study. The meeting provided each Village with information on the challenges of transportation services, noting that Elk Grove and Wheeling Townships served both. The report's findings will be presented in August and shared with Village Staff.

The commissioners discussed the challenge of building affordable housing without the support of local, state, and federal government assistance. Commissioner Viecielli noted an article that cited changes in zoning, the approval of accessory dwelling units, and the reduction of red tape.

The Commissioners discussed the amount of "red tape" for developers and builders encountered when building in the Village. They suggested that the Liaison reach out to the Housing Commission Liaison about any perception or process for builders and developers. Commissioner Motto encouraged people to attend the Village Board's strategic planning meeting, scheduled for July 14 at the Makers Place.

Liaison Colagrossi noted that the Commission is hosting an Aging and Housing Workshop on Wednesday, July 16, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Senior Center. The presenters will include the Village, discussing the zero-interest loan program, the Northwest Housing Partnership, discussing the handyman program and other programs to help individuals age in their homes, and the Center of Concern, which will discuss the home sharing program along with a participant in the program.

2. Communications

Commissioner Viecegli summarized that the subcommittee reviewed the Facebook and E-Blast numbers, which are both increasing each month. They also discussed the outreach events and participation. They will take July off to meet.

G. Kenneth Hood Award

Chairperson Vogt reported that the committee will meet at the end of the month to review the nominations and have a recommendation for an awardee at the July meeting.

H. Intergenerational Outreach

Commissioner Zimmerman reported that staff continues to build strong ties with our nearby school districts. The District 25 principals will be touring the center soon. The school districts and St. Viator are scheduled to participate in the Live Well, Age Well Expo this year.

Staff is putting together a list of items to collaborate with the school district.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be on Monday, July 21, at 7 pm.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO ADJORN. COMMISSIONER
FELDMAN MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER
ADAMS. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05 PM.**