

**Minutes
Village of Arlington Heights
Senior Citizens Commission
Commissions Room-33 S Arlington Heights Road, A.H. 60005
July 21, 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: [OBJ]

Tracey Colagrossi, Liaison

Not Present:

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 16, 2025, Minutes

CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2025, BE ACCEPTED. COMMISSIONER CARTER MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FELDMAN. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2025, WERE ACCEPTED.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairpersons Report

Chairperson Vogt noted that he participated in the Kenneth Hood Award meeting held this month. New Director of Health and Human Services, Mila Tsagalis, also attended the meeting.

The Chairperson represented Age-Friendly at the Live Well; Age Well Expo held in June. He said a lot of people stopped by inquiring about Age-Friendly.

Chairperson Vogt also noted that the Housing presentation at the Senior Center on Wednesday, July 16 with thirty-five people in attendance. Information on federally funded programs, Village services, and the Center of Concern shared housing program.

B. Liaison Report

Senior Center Manager Tracey Colagrossi reported that the Wheeling Township Mental Health Board has opened their Funding Requests for 2026-27. The Health and Human Services Department is working on a proposal to submit for consideration.

All departments are working on their budget proposals for 2026. The Senior Services division has submitted an expanded budget request for the Revitalization/Rebranding of the Senior Center. This comes as a recommendation from the strategic planning report created by Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies.

The Reunion Jazz Orchestra played to over 85 people on the patio this evening. The Athletic Club will undergo some painting and carpet cleaning in August. The old television monitor that was in a small corner of our lobby broke, and it has been replaced with a 55" monitor located in a more prominent area of the lobby.

Mrs. Illinois Tracy Heisler Drost visited the Senior Center during the Gerry's Cafe pop-up. She was able to tour the Senior Center and visit with patrons. She will compete for Mrs. USA in August.

The Commission inquired about the last Roadshow Event held at Lake Arlington. The Liaison reported that 60 people pre-registered and 40 people attended. Most likely due to the heat. Everyone received a mini kayak tutorial and took a boat out. When they returned, Kona Ice served cooling treats.

The next event will be at the Arlington Heights Farmers Market, Saturday, August 16 from 9 am to 12 pm. We will be creating a group art project entitled "Words of Wisdom". People will assist in the art making by using paint markers. We hope to mount it in the Senior Center this year.

The Volunteer Recognition Event coordinated by Liz Nierman was excellent. The Commissioners commended the student volunteers from ENESCO, a student soccer organization, for helping with serving and cleaning up the event.

C. Non-for-Profit Corporation

The Arlington Heights Senior Center, Inc. Foundation's funded the translation costs for the informational brochures. Once we receive the checks the work will be completed, and we can produce the translated items.

The next fundraising event for the foundation is the Pickleball Tournament on September 13 at Dryden Courts.

D. Senior Center Advisory Council

The next events from the Advisory Council 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 on House Bill 1226 that 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, is at the Governor's desk awaiting signature.

F. Age-Friendly Community Certification

Age-Friendly Chairperson and Commissioner, George Motto, reported that the Progress Report is moving along toward being submitted to AARP.

1. Transportation/Affordable Housing Report

Commissioner Raminiak reported that the survey to assess older adult's need for housing affordability has low numbers. During the last subcommittee meeting, the decision was to incentivize responses. Liaison Colagrossi created incentives and sending out with the next eblast newsletter.

The presentation in July that included the Center of Concern's Home Sharing Program described the need for more providers (homeowners) to be included. The subcommittee discussed opportunities to help Center of Concern spread the word about the program. One idea was to host a similar presentation at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library.

Commissioner Motto stated at the Board's Strategic Planning Session, Affordable Housing was the second highest priority. The commissioners discussed the challenge of building affordable housing without the support of local, state, and federal government assistance. Commissioner Viecelli noted an article that cited changes in zoning, the approval of accessory dwelling units, and the reduction of red tape.

Commissioner Feldman reported that he attended Pace Board of Directors meeting where the discussion surrounded the \$750 million dollar shortfall. They do not yet know if the money will come through to help cover the funds, they received during Covid. The RTA is requiring all public transit providers create two budgets with one funded and the other as underfunded. Pace stated they will create a third budget which includes the cost for implementation of the ReVision program. Liaison

2. Communications

Commissioner Viecegli summarized that the subcommittee reviewed the Facebook followers to 415. There is now a volunteer who will be conducting patron spotlights for the social media account. The eblast subscribers are the same as last month.

G. Kenneth Hood Award

Chairperson Vogt reported that the committee met in July and reviewed the nominees for the Kenneth Hood Award. After much discussion, the subcommittee is recommending Albert and Donna Kunz for the 2025 Kenneth Hood Award winner. The Kunz' dedicate their time at the Arlington Heights Nurses Club Lending Closet, taking inventory, training volunteers on a new computer system, working the closet on Tuesday, and help with donations of equipment to underserved areas of the city.

COMMISSIONER VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO APPROVE ALBERT AND DONNA KUNZ AS THE KENNETH HOOD AWARD WINNERS. COMMISSIONER VIECELLI MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION PASSED.

Liaison Colagrossi will reach out to the Kunz' and advise with Administration on a possible date to present the award.

H. Intergenerational Outreach

Commissioner Zimmerman reported that in addition to the over 250 attendees, 52 vendors, 21 nonprofits; the school districts 25, 214 and St. Viator also had a table to greet people and discuss education.

The Program and Volunteer Coordinators met with Service Over Self leader, Mark Gunther to discuss possible expansion of intergenerational programs at Hersy High School. Scheduled on September 22, patrons of the Senior Center will attend high school at Hersey via school bus. Additionally, there will be an escape room activity among other programs discussed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Liaison Colagrossi presented the updated Age-Friendly Action Plans for 2025-2027. The updated plans will be included in the Age-Friendly Progress Report to AARP in September. The Liaison asked for any recommendations or changes be to her by August 1st. She will also have a draft of the report for August review.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be on Monday, August 18, 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 DREW. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:52 PM.