



AGENDA  
Committee of the Whole  
Community Room  
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd  
September 15, 2025  
7:15 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. COW Meeting Minutes 8/11/25
  - B. COW Meeting Minutes 8/18/25
  - C. COW Meeting Minutes 8/25/25
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Interview of Sara Altieri for appointment to the Arts Commission, term ending April 30, 2028
- VI. OTHER BUSINESS
- VII. 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.

VIII. 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](mailto:healthmail@vah.com) or 847/368-5760.*



MINUTES  
Committee of the Whole  
Village of Arlington Heights

Arlington Heights Village Hall  
33 S. Arlington Heights Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005  
August 11, 2025  
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

President Tinaglia and the following Trustees responded to roll: James Bertucci, Wendy Dunnington, Robin LaBedz, Bill Manganaro, Tom Schwingbeck, Scott Shirley, Jim Tinaglia.  
Trustee Carina Santa Maria, Greg Zyck was absent.  
Also present were: Randy Recklaus, Gregory Smith, Chief Nick Pecora, and Maggie Mattio.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. COW Minutes 6/30/25 meeting

Trustee Bertucci moved to Approve. Trustee LaBedz Seconded the Motion.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Dunnington, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Manganaro, Trustee Schwingbeck, President Tinaglia

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee Scott Shirley

Absent: Trustee Santa Maria, Trustee Zyck

B. COW Minutes 7/21/25 Meeting

Trustee LaBedz moved to Approve. Trustee Schwingbeck Seconded the Motion.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: Trustee Bertucci, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Manganaro, Trustee Schwingbeck, Trustee Shirley, President Tinaglia

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee Wendy Dunnington  
Absent: Trustee Santa Maria, Trustee Zyck

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Regulation of E-Bikes and Scooters

Police Chief Nick Pecora said that in 2025 thus far, the Police Department has responded to about 25 e-bike and 50 e-scooter complaints. Complaints received by Northwest Community Dispatchers included minors doing wheelies in the roadway, the disregard of traffic lights, and vehicle vs scooter accidents, among other complaints. He described a Class 1 e-bike as a bicycle that has a maximum speed of 20 mph and starts out with pedal power but can be assisted by an electronic or gas-powered engine; a Class 2 e-bike can go without pedal power and no more than 20 mph; and a Class 3 e-bike is self-propelled with a maximum speed of up to 28 mph.

Illinois State Law prohibits riding e-bikes or e-scooters that travel more than 10 mph on sidewalks, requires a minimum age of 16 years old to operate a Class 3 e-Bike, a minimum age of 18 years old to operate an e-Scooter, and the mobility device must have lighting and brakes. However, the law failed to sufficiently address e-Scooters by definition and defined them only by speed. It also lacked the acknowledgment of other micromobility devices, address where devices can be ridden, roadway considerations, and rider safety.

In the draft ordinance provided to the Board, Chief Pecora recommended that e-bike or e-scooter riders must wear helmets, prohibit carrying cargo in hands, set a minimum age of 16 or older, operate an e-bike or e-scooter, unlawful to operate recklessly, must comply with Chapter 11 and Chapter 15 of the Illinois Vehicle Code and abide by the set rules of the road, prohibited the use of motorized mobility devices on any Village sidewalk, owned parking lot, and/or Village sponsored special events where vehicular traffic is restricted such as Alfresco, streets with posted speed limits greater than 25 mph, and mobility devices should have lighting and braking power. He added that there was a parental responsibility component to the drafted ordinance in which a parent of a child under the age of 16 may be held responsible.

Chief Pecora discussed the fine structure. A first offense citation would carry a \$75 fine; a second offense would carry a \$150 fine; and a third offense or operating recklessly would result in a \$250 fine. In addition, the responsible adult of any minor under the age of 16 could also be at risk of receiving a fine. Impoundment of the mobility device would also be a possibility after a third offense or first reckless offense. However, before the implementation of any citation or fine structure, Chief Pecora said education would be provided to the public via social media platforms, community policing outreach, school liaisons and the Village's cable access channel.

Mr. Recklaus clarified that staff were not looking for a final vote on the ordinance at tonight's meeting, rather for the Board to have a general understanding of what an ordinance could look like.

Trustee Shirley was in favor of enacting an ordinance regulating e-bikes and e-scooters and supported the parental responsibility component of the drafted ordinance. He said his observation was that minors and adults alike, operating bicycles, e-Bikes and e-Scooters, disregard the rules of the road. He asked Chief Pecora why the drafted ordinance did not differentiate between mobility devices. Chief Pecora said that technology is evolving and differentiating between devices could create a loophole for any new devices hitting the

market.

It was clarified that citations would not affect one's driving record, it would be a violation of a Village ordinance.

Trustee Bertucci suggested revising the verbiage pertaining to the parental responsibility in the drafted ordinance not to read "a parent in control of a minor." He asked what the procedures were when stopping or citing a minor. Chief Pecora said that police are required to notify a parent anytime they come in contact with a minor. The parent would then have to pick up their minor child. If the police were unsuccessful at reaching a parent, they would take custody of the minor and either release them to an adult who can take responsibility or give the minor a ride home.

Trustee Manganaro would like the Bike Commission and Youth Commission to have input on the matter before any decisions are made. He expressed concern over enacting an ordinance that would impact reckless and responsible riders alike, as some adults use e-bikes and e-scooters for economic reasons. He said that focus should be on those who ride recklessly and staff should begin with educating the public on safety, rules of the road and the parental responsibility aspect.

Trustee LaBedz highlighted that the overall concern is safety and avoiding accidents with e-Bikes and e-Scooters. She echoed Trustee Manganaro's suggestion of giving the Youth Commission the opportunity to speak on the matter and that focus should be on reckless riders rather than an adult using an e-bike as their means of transportation. She emphasized that education is very important and that the issue does have to be addressed.

Trustee Dunnington raised concern over the suggested regulation to prohibit e-Bikes and e-Scooters on roads with a speed limit over 25 mph, as some areas in or near town require traveling along major roads with speed limits above 25 mph. She asked if e-Bikes and e-Scooters would be allowed to ride on combined-use paths such as the planned connection between the Prospect Heights Trail and Palatine Trail. Chief Pecora said shared paths are currently regulated as a result of an accident that occurred at Lake Arlington where an e-bike struck an elderly person who died as a result of their injuries. She asked how police are currently enforcing the dismount zone in downtown Arlington Heights. Chief Pecora said it's education-based. Officers hand out cards to riders and ask them to walk on their wheels. Trustee Dunnington said that while the draft ordinance is a good start, she would like more input from the community and recommendations from the Bike & Pedestrian Commission, Northwest Municipal Conference and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. She expressed that there was a real need for these mobility devices as they allowed young people more flexibility to get around, provided older people with the opportunity to stay healthy and active, and they were good for the environment.

Trustee Schwingbeck said it was important to move forward with an ordinance quickly due to growing safety concerns and ongoing disregard for the rules of the road. He said that revisions could be made after consulting the Bike & Pedestrian Commission and Youth Commission, and suggested that the ordinance include language to prohibit riders from having passengers and a requirement to register the devices and complete training. He expressed concern over vehicle accidents that have occurred where the vehicle owner was not at fault, yet left with the financial responsibility of repairing their car. He suggested that parents or their insurance carrier become liable for any expense incurred by a victim of an e-bike or e-scooter accident.

Trustee Bertucci and President Tinaglia agreed with Trustee Schwingbeck that an ordinance should be enacted soon.

Brian Larson of S. Illinois Drive said enacting an ordinance regulating e-Bikes and e-Scooters would be a step in the wrong direction. He said his household had one vehicle, and he relied heavily on his e-Bike for school pick-up, grocery runs and getting to and from work every day. He said the ordinance was unnecessary, and the Village should act on the plans already in place to make streets safer for everyone.

Arlen Gould of E. Burr Oak Drive spoke in support of the ordinance. He expressed concern over e-Bikes and e-Scooters on walkways and said he witnesses incidents on a daily basis. He said that part of the problem was the disregard for stop signs from riders and motorists alike.

Tom Kroupa of E. Grove Street was also in support of the ordinance and that it encompassed all mobility devices. He suggested that the ordinance should apply to any rider not obeying the rules of the road. He mentioned his vehicle sustained \$4,500 in damages as a result of a minor striking his vehicle while operating an e-bike at a high rate of speed. While he was financially affected by the accident, he expressed concern for the minor whose life could have suffered great consequences. Police were unable to ticket the minor because they were not operating a licensed vehicle.

Rob Brodecki of W. Campbell Street said that prior to enacting an ordinance, the Village should wait for recommendations from other agencies and commissions. He hoped that the rules and regulations set for e-bikes and e-scooters would cover the entire region rather than a single municipality, because traveling from town to town with different rules would be confusing. Since the concern is speed, he agreed that class 3 mobility devices should be regulated and perhaps require a driver's license to operate. However, class 1 and class 2 mobility devices travel at a max speed of 20 mph and that could be done on a pedal bicycle. He said putting restrictions on class 1 and class 2 mobility devices would affect the independence and freedom of younger kids. He encouraged education on safety rather than an ordinance.

Cindy Smiskol said she was apprehensive about purchasing an e-Scooter for her 13-year-old son. However, it has allowed him to travel to and from family and friends' homes and travel to extracurricular activities on days when she can't drive him. She mentioned they reside in an apartment and don't have the space to store a full-size men's bicycle. The scooter is compact and foldable and fits in her apartment and car. She supported the idea of an ordinance and holding reckless riders accountable, but disagreed with restricting minors under the age of 16 to operating an e-bike or e-scooter. She encouraged schools to offer their students a bicycle safety program.

Keith Moens found the rush to enact an ordinance was a reactionary response to an undefined problem. He said speeding cars are a larger problem than e-Bikes and e-Scooters and suggested an ordinance be drafted to resolve that issue. He asked the Board to postpone enacting an ordinance until the Bike, Youth, and Senior Citizen Commissions had the opportunity to weigh in.

Ryan, Dr. Alissa and Caiden Bennett were not in support of an ordinance encompassing all mobility devices as there are already Illinois Laws in place regulating Class 3 e-bikes. Mr. Bennett said banning e-bikes would risk rejection of innovative transportation. Instead, the Village should create guidelines and effective solutions for safe riding. Dr.

Bennett provided data and facts related to the health benefits of e-riding. Caiden mentioned that he used his e-bike every day, not only for fun but to get to and from activities. It allowed him to travel quicker and further than a regular bicycle.

Mr. Recklaus said if the Board wished to refer the e-Bike and e-Scooter topic to a commission, they could either direct the commission through a motion to study the topic or a commission could volunteer to study the topic and approach the Board with their findings. If the Board did pass an ordinance, the first step would be to provide a considerable amount of education to the community. He provided the Board with 3 options on how to proceed. First, if the Board did not wish to consult with a commission, they could direct Staff to finalize the ordinance for discussion and vote at an upcoming Village Board meeting. The second option would be to consult any commission for a review of the ordinance. The third option would be to pass the ordinance and in six to twelve months request that a commission review the ordinance and determine if any changes are needed.

President Tinaglia shared that the Village Board and Staff have received an enormous response from the community on the issue and the consensus is safety. He asked Chief Pecora what revisions could be made to the draft ordinance to make it more adaptable to users of e-Bikes and e-Scooters. Chief Pecora said that public safety is their mission. Education should begin at home with parents and, as a community, we share the commitment when people are on the roadways. The draft ordinance presented to the Board was the compilation of state law and what neighboring communities have enacted. Restrictions could be loosened if all motorized mobility devices were not grouped together and took into consideration community input. Compared to other communities, the Village has the least restrictions on e-bikes.

In order to address reckless behavior quickly, it was decided to modify the draft ordinance to regulate class 3 motorized mobility devices, and penalize recklessness and require safety equipment for all motorized mobility devices. The ordinance would be put to the test while the Bike & Pedestrian Commission, Senior Commission and Youth Commission study it and provide additional perspective for consideration. The ordinance will be amendable in the future.

Trustee Bertucci motioned to direct staff to prepare an ordinance regulating class 3 and other unregulated e-vehicles, address recklessness with all e-vehicles, require safety equipment for all e-vehicles and establish parental consequences as outlined in the memo, seconded by Trustee Shirley.

#### B. Upcoming Project Prioritization Discussion

##### **Major Project Discussions**

Mr. Recklaus presented the Board with several proposed projects for consideration, feedback and prioritization and to discuss President Tinaglia's concept for ad-hoc work groups and/or commission involvement for each issue. He clarified that the projects to be presented were not part of the previously set strategic priorities.

##### **Public Camping**

Will be revisited at an upcoming Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

##### **Revision to Flag Ordinance**

Scheduled for discussion on August 25, 2025.

##### **Murals/Public Art**

Project forwarded to the Art Commission.

### **Park Speeding Zones**

Staff recommended against doing that at this time. However, it can be revisited at a later time so the Board wish.

### **Video Gaming**

The Village has the authority to permit gaming in lounges and/or restaurants in the community but has not allowed so in the past. Businesses in town have experienced competition and have seen an impact when compared to businesses in neighboring towns where video gaming is permitted. Allowing video gaming could provide additional revenue for businesses and the Village alike.

A few Board members requested data which suggested Arlington Heights businesses are losing revenue to neighboring businesses that allow video gaming.

The Board recommended an ad hoc committee to study this item as a short-term priority.

### **Open Carry of Alcohol Downtown**

As Arlington Alfresco has evolved, it has been suggested that the Village allow patrons to walk through the alfresco zone with an open alcoholic beverage. The alcoholic beverage could either be purchased from a downtown establishment or brought in from the outside. It would require an enforcement procedure and incur additional law enforcement staffing demands.

The Board directed staff to work on this project with a mid-term priority and possible implementation for the 2026 Sound of Summer season.

### **EV Charging/Multi-Family Residential**

The Fire Department and Building and Life Safety are currently working on this project and could present options to the Board later this year.

The Board directed staff to work on this project with a mid-term priority.

### **Downtown Master Plan Update**

The Downtown Master Plan was created in 2007 and there have been minor updates since. This project would require a lot of staff time, possibly retaining consultants, taskforce, and many meetings over the next few years. It would involve a detailed review of each block of the downtown area.

The Board recommended a taskforce with a mid-term priority.

### **THC Product Regulations**

There are new unregulated THC products on the market being manufactured and distributed with minimal regulations. While the Village is home to two dispensaries, THC products are not regulated by the same rules or laws as cannabis products. The State Legislature failed to pass legislation on the issue this past spring. Therefore, some communities have banned or created local regulations of their own. The Village could begin regulating the purchase of THC items by setting an age limit or products could be banned within Village limits.

The Board directed staff to work on this project with a short-term priority.

### **Historic Preservation Rules**

This project was identified as one of the Board's strategic priorities. There could be

significant private property redevelopment implications for property owners. It was last evaluated in 2007. The Board was ready to implement regulations; however, it would require additional staff for enforcement. The project was placed on hold when the recession occurred and the Village was reducing staff.

The Board recommended a taskforce with a short-term priority to begin the discussion, but a long-term priority to implement an outcome.

Tom Graynor of W. Fremont Street agreed with setting regulations to preserve historic properties and offered his help.

### **Crime-Free Housing/Rental Inspections**

There are roughly 1,000 multifamily units working through the process. Some projects have been approved and others are being proposed. The Village would like to maintain high-quality housing. This project would create an inspection process for rental properties requiring new staff costs. The cost could be offset by fees. However, additional revenue would be necessary.

The Board directed staff to work on this project with a long-term priority.

### **Airbnb & Short-term Rental Regulations**

The Board was presented with three options on how to deal with Airbnb and short-term rentals. There could be a complete ban on such rentals, allow them but require inspections, or continue to allow without any regulations. Other regulations that could be applied to short-term rentals include allowing them in specific neighborhoods/areas, setting a minimum rental window, requiring registration, licensing, and inspection process for rentals, and/or could be handled with the rental inspection program. The potential redevelopment of Arlington Park would dramatically increase demand for short-term rentals.

There was some concern expressed over what short-term rentals could do to family-friendly neighborhoods and home affordability if Arlington Park was redeveloped.

Devin Gray of S. Banbury Road asked the Board to be very considerate and mindful when deciding how to handle short-term rentals. He said banning could result in illegal rentals but sympathized with homeowners near the Arlington Park redevelopment who probably would not want to raise a family near a stadium.

Vivian Menzies of W. Fremont discouraged allowing short-term rentals. She expressed concern for her daughter, who lives near the Arlington Park property. She said different people should not be allowed to come in and out of our neighborhoods every weekend. She also suggested implementing a rental registration requirement.

Michael Bailey of IL Realtors asked the Village to consider how banning short-term rentals could affect revenues. He agreed with the enactment of an ordinance but said it should be intentional in protecting property rights and the community. With regard to the rental inspection program, there were concerns related to the violation of the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment rights which protect one from unreasonable search and seizure. He explained that a tenant can deny an inspector entry into the unit and that petitioning a judge for an administrative warrant would be the only way for the inspection to occur. This practice results in delays and increased rent to offset the inspection program.

The Board directed staff to work on this project with a short-term priority.

### **Downtown Ice Rink**

A downtown ice rink has been discussed for a number of years. It was suggested that Harmony Park could be a possible location. It can also be done in connection with the Park District. Staff have been conducting research with other towns which have ice rinks. President Tinaglia said that he gathered information from a provider who installed, maintained, and removed the ice rink at the end of the season. He added that the project cost would be funded by donations. Other cost implications could be related to staffing. The idea can also be discussed in conjunction with the Vail Street Promenade project during the August 18<sup>th</sup> Village Board of Trustees Meeting.

The Board suggested that staff work on this initially, followed by a taskforce with a mid-term priority.

### **Senior Center Rehab vs Relocation**

The Senior Center was studied from 2021 to 2022. The study involved a community survey, architectural analysis, stakeholder interviews, and it evaluated the space size and needs. The study resulted in a final recommendation to renovate the existing space, funded with a 2029 bond issue. However, there have been suggestions to reevaluate and explore the possibility of a move or new construction and if that would be more beneficial and cost-effective.

The Board suggested a town hall meeting and directed staff to work on the project with a mid-term priority.

### **250<sup>th</sup> July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

Staff proposed additional 4<sup>th</sup> of July events to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. They are also working on options for a firework display that will be presented to the Board in the fall.

The Board recommended an ad hoc committee and directed staff to work on the project with a short-term priority.

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Gabriel Nagy of Peachtree Drive mentioned he was working on a high-density, low-rise co-housing development in Arlington Heights. He said this type of development offered a sustainable, attainable, affordable, and community-rooted solution needed at the moment. Where neighbors know and support one another, essential workers can live near their jobs, and long-time residents can downsize without leaving the community they love.

Melissa Gilland of S. Highland Avenue and preschool owner, expressed safety concern over recent vandalism and loitering incidents outside her preschool. The incidents have occurred on private and public property and police have been called five times over a two-week span. The situation has escalated from red spray paint on the sidewalk to disposal of feminine hygiene products on the property lawn. The individual also appeared shirtless with a pacifier in his mouth near the playground and on the sidewalk in front of the preschool. She asked the Village for help in keeping her students and staff safe.

Mr. Recklaus said the staff were familiar with this individual and are working with his family to try and get him to modify his behavior. He encouraged Ms. Gilland to continue to contact the police.

Trustee Shirley asked if the Village could enact a loitering ordinance. Village attorney

Gregory Smith said he will be working with staff on this issue and added that generally loitering laws have been struck down under the 1st Amendment because people have the right to be in public places, including sidewalks.

Village staff will explore options on how to allow local authorities to deal with this issue more aggressively.

#### VII. 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.

#### VIII. 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](mailto:healthmail@vah.com) or 847/368-5760.

Trustee LaBedz moved to Adjourn at 10:54PM. Trustee Schwingbeck Seconded the Motion.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Dunnington, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Manganaro, Trustee Schwingbeck, Trustee Shirley, President Tinaglia

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Santa Maria, Trustee Zyck

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**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF THE  
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
August 18, 2025**

President Tinaglia called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Tinaglia; Trustees Bertucci, Dunnington,  
Manganaro, Schwingbeck, Shirley, Zyck

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Santa Maria  
Trustee LaBedz (arrived at 7:07pm)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Village Manager Randy Recklaus; Deputy Village Manager  
Diana Mikula

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Thomas, Stella Butler

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Interview of Jennifer Thomas for appointment to the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities, term ending April 30, 2028**

Mayor Tinaglia introduced Jennifer Thomas and asked her to explain why this commission is important to her and how she thinks she can contribute.

Jennifer went to grammar school in Arlington Heights and is now raising her family here. She has over 26 years in public service, is a member of the disability community and has based her career in disability rights. To give back to her community is an honor.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked if Jennifer has attended any of the commission meetings. Jennifer responded that due to her work schedule, she hasn't been able to attend any meetings this year. However, she has now arranged to work from home on the nights of the meetings and she has begun reading through some of the minutes. Jennifer explained that she believes in person-first language and would like to help the Village re-shape the way people look at citizens with disabilities.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked what Jennifer can bring to the commission with her vast experience. Jennifer mentioned that she would have to abstain from voting on transit issues due to her employment. She thinks about what accessibility looks like in different scenarios and has a different perspective that she can bring to the Village – practical versus functional.

Trustee LaBedz entered the meeting.

Trustee Manganaro mentioned that he has previously spoken with Jennifer and that he learned a lot from their conversation. He knows she will bring something special to this commission.

Jennifer has several book and white paper recommendations to help people understand the person-first language.

Trustees thanked Jennifer Thomas for her willingness to serve on the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities.

**Trustee Schwingbeck moved, seconded by Trustee Bertucci to concur in the Mayor's appointment of Jennifer Thomas to the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities, term ending April 30, 2028**

**The following voice vote was recorded:**

**8 Ayes**

**0 Nays**

**The motion passed.**

**B. Interview of Stella Butler for appointment to the Environmental Commission, term ending April 30, 2026**

Mayor Tinaglia explained that Stella Butler was recommended by a different commissioner and that Stella is looking to serve as the youth member of the Environmental Commission. He is confident that she will be an outstanding voice on this commission and asked Stella to share how she plans to participate on this commission.

Stella stated that she will be the youth representative for the community. She is planning to pursue Environmental Studies and Environmental Policy so has interest in the field. She also wants to give back to the community.

Trustees Dunnington and LaBedz commented that they were impressed with her resume and letter of recommendation. Trustee LaBedz mentioned the importance of Environmental Policy going forward.

Village Manager Randy Recklaus mentioned that he knows Stella and can attest to the fact that she is a very impressive person. He believes that Stella is exactly the type of person the Village wants to have on their commissions.

An audience member asked if there could be a discussion about having solar roofs on government buildings in Arlington Heights. Mayor Tinaglia let him know that this is already under way and Village Manager Randy Recklaus offered to talk with him about it.

Trustees thanked Stella Butler for her willingness to serve as a youth member on the Environmental Commission.

**Trustee LaBedz moved, seconded by Trustee Dunnington to concur in the Mayor's appointment of Stella Butler to the Environmental Commission, term ending April 30, 2026.**

**The following voice vote was recorded:**

**8 Ayes**

**0 Nays**

**The motion passed.**

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS - none**

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- 1 - Melissa Cayer asked that we put reminders on the water and sewer bill for people to clear the debris from the sewer grates and curbs that are near their property. Mayor Tinaglia mentioned that we could possibly put that on the website.
- 2 - Melissa Cayer asked if a street cleaner notices a sewer grate that isn't getting cleared, what is the standard operating procedure? Mayor Tinaglia mentioned that Public Works could answer that question.
- 3 - Melissa Cayer asked how they clear the weeds from the curbs and sewer grates.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Trustee Manganaro moved, seconded by Trustee Schwingbeck to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

**MINUTES  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE  
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
BOARD ROOM  
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025 7:00P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Tinaglia; Trustees: Bertucci, Dunnington, LaBedz, Manganaro, Santa Maria, Schwingbeck, Shirley and Zyck

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager; Nicholas Pecora, Chief of Police; Hart Passman, Village Attorney and Kim Peterson, Recording Secretary

President Tinaglia called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

A. Committee of the Whole 08/04/25

**Trustee Bertucci moved, seconded by Trustee Schwingbeck, to approve the August 4, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.**

**The Motion: Passed**

**Ayes: Bertucci, Dunnington, LaBedz, Manganaro, Schwingbeck, Shirley, Tinaglia**

**Passed: Santa Maria, Zyck**

**New Business**

**A. Continued Discussion on the Regulation of the Use of Public Property**

Mr. Recklaus advised that this topic was discussed at the July 21<sup>st</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting, where presentations were made by staff from both the Health & Human Services Department and Police Department. No conclusion was reached at that meeting; however, a motion was made to continue this discussion where all members are present.

John Geier, Arlington Heights resident, stated that he has worked with homeless in Chicago and asked if the Village has conducted a survey to see how many people are unhoused in the Village at night and where they are staying. Mr. Geier feels that if this is done perhaps the Village could possibly do some outreach and see what services these individuals might need. Mr. Recklaus advised that between the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department and Social Services Department, they have a pretty good handle on the homeless population in the community. The Health & Human Services Department works with these individuals on a regular basis to try and connect them with services, sometimes successfully and sometimes unsuccessfully. They also maintain relationships with a number of social service agencies in the area who deal with the unhoused. The Village is very much engaged in these issues and are aware of the individuals in the community.

Katie Eighan, Arlington Heights resident and the Continuum of Care Planning Director for the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County. They are responsible for the strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness for all 130 suburbs in Cook County. Ms. Eighan stated that she would like the Board to stay true to their commitment and not criminalize homelessness and that if any new ordinance that's aimed at public speaking is proposed, that is an act of criminalizing homelessness. Any new ordinance that would criminalize people sleeping in public spaces would be ineffective, wasteful and an inhumane use of village resources. Ms. Eighan proposed that the discussion for how to help people who are staying outside should be assigned to a housing task force that works with Village staff, local faith-based communities and non-profits, so that everyone has a safe and stable place to live.

Max Seeley, Director of Government Affairs for the Supportive Housing Providers Association, stated that the single most effective way to end homelessness is supportive housing, which is housing with wrap-around services. Criminalizing homelessness through fines or penalties does the opposite and is not a solution. Ms. Seeley stated that Arlington Heights should form a task force to identify real solutions.

Beth Nabors, Arlington Heights resident and CEO of Journey's the Road Home, stated that she is present to say no to the criminalization of homelessness. She does not stand for punishing people who are sleeping outside due to no other option they themselves can see and any ordinance that suggests consequences for people sleeping outside is criminalization of homelessness. Ms. Nabors advised that the Village needs a task force that addresses the Village's priority of housing for all.

David Weiner, Arlington Heights resident, stated that it is the residents of his building that brought this issue to the forefront and they have no intention of labeling or criminalizing this homeless situation. Mr. Weiner thanked the Board for continuing this conversation and thanked the Police Department for their suggestion of installing "No Trespassing" signs, which has helped the situation. Mr. Weiner advised that he wished the bench would have been moved during the time it was unoccupied to create the safety and calm that they were looking for outside of their building, but is hopeful that the creation of a task force could address this issue.

Linda Waycie, member of Southminster Presbyterian Church, stated that many of the church members, along with Village of Arlington Heights Social Worker Darren Brown and Monica from Northwest Compass, worked many hours to find a solution to house Angel who is living unhoused on a bench in Arlington Heights, but in the end Angel's cooperation with signing a form allowing help to be provided was not given. Ms. Waycie advised that they are not finished trying to help her and asked the Board to postpone any discussion or vote on any further action, as an ordinance that forbids people to sleep on a bench doesn't solve the problem.

Martha Ross-Mockaitis, Arlington Heights resident, stated that she is a retired pastor and has seen firsthand the effects of homelessness and poverty. Ms. Mockaitis stated that she is against an ordinance that would criminalize people for their misfortune. Arresting people who have nowhere to go for loitering is not only inhumane but a waste of tax payer dollars. Ms. Mockaitis called upon the Board to look at the broader picture of homelessness and explained how using housing and wrap around services is a proven way to deal with those who are homeless.

Jay Shapiro, Arlington Heights resident, stated that it is important to he and his wife that the Board oppose the anti-camping ordinance being discussed, as criminalizing homelessness runs opposite to their way of thinking about community.

Ken Jensen, pastor of St. John United Church of Christ, advised that his congregation is deeply engaged in working with Journey's/PADS and other organizations to address the challenges with homelessness. Criminalizing homelessness does not align with the ethic of Jesus and the policies that are being proposed would punish people. Compassion and investment heal and they would welcome the opportunity to join a task force to think through solutions collaboratively.

Glenn Anrenholz, Arlington Heights resident and member of Prospect Heights Community Church, stated that he participates in the PADS program at his church every week and would like to continue working to help these homeless people become more productive citizens.

Colleen Mahoney, Assistant Director of the State of Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, stated that she is present to urge the Board to not consider any ordinance that allows for ticketing, fining or arresting people experiencing homelessness who are sitting or sleeping on public places. Public officials have a responsibility to strengthen their communities and help make a difference and read some excerpts from a letter written by the Illinois Department of Human Rights. Ms. Mahoney stated that she urges the Board to not move forward with consideration of this ordinance but instead focus efforts on investment and prevention, shelter and housing. Ms. Mahoney offered her office and partners as a resource to the Village.

Renee Schlenhardt stated that she is present to speak on behalf of someone else who lives nearby but is not comfortable speaking in public on this topic. This concerned resident does not believe it's safe for this individual to be on a bench near Northwest Highway, as there was just recently a violent assault near there. People have gathered

there to drink, liter, and be disruptive, and it affects the people who live near there on a daily basis. This concerned resident asked about the possibility of the PADS program becoming a year-round program and if the Village could possibly use some of the verbiage contained in the Arlington Heights Park District ordinance that prohibits sleeping/camping on Park District property when creating their own ordinance.

Hugh Brady, Co-President of the North/Northwest Suburban Task Force on Supportive Housing for Individuals with Mental Illness, stated that one way another, the Village is going to provide housing for homeless people, and the question is will it be effective or ineffective and will it be expensive or inexpensive. Supplying permanent supportive housing is both effective and less expensive and their housing task force is ready to help create more permanent supportive housing in Arlington Heights.

Nicolle Grasse, Arlington Heights resident and hospital chaplain, stated that in her line of work she understands the universal human needs that we all have, including the need to feel safe. Ms. Grasse advised that she is in support of a compassionate approach to this complex issue rather than an ordinance that could be criminalizing the homeless, and is also in favor of creating a task force.

Christina Crusius, Arlington Heights resident, stated that she opposes this ordinance and is in support of a solution that is thoughtful and in line with the complexity of the situation. Ms. Crusius does not think this ordinance would solve anything and asked where these folks would go. There is a deep need for affordable housing and robust social services in our community, as well as the deep need for compassion.

Daniel Crusius, Arlington Heights resident, stated that people who are unhoused deserve dignity not expulsion and deserve access to services and not criminalization. The Village needs to take care of all of its residents, including the unhoused.

Steve Blye, Arlington Heights resident, stated that he is completely in support of not arresting anyone who is homeless in town, however it is not compassionate to allow someone to sit out in the open, exposed to the elements. Mr. Blye proposed the idea of creating a database of volunteers who want to have someone stay in their home or yard in a tent. Mr. Blye advised that most residents agree that homeless people need help, but they don't want to see them sitting on display at the front door of their city.

President Tinaglia stated that this is a very sensitive topic that is not going to go away and what the Village needs to figure out is how they will manage it.

Mr. Recklaus explained that unlike Village Board meetings, Committee of the Whole meetings are not televised. Mr. Recklaus advised that task forces are typically created when there is a lack of collaboration between the different parties and he is not seeing a lack of collaboration, as Village staff works very closely with the different social service agencies. Mr. Recklaus did ask the Health & Human Services Staff what the Village could do to help and what they suggested was better collaboration between regional communities and the county, therefore Mr. Recklaus did reach out to different city managers and asked them who their contacts are in the community who deal with

the issues of the unhoused in their community. Mr. Recklaus received all of this information and they are now forming a work group to better streamline the intake process with the county. Mr. Recklaus suggested that if there is a need for broader communication, rather than forming a task force and perhaps a forum can be hosted where different parties and different groups can discuss and present ideas. Mr. Recklaus advised that this is not an issue exclusive to Arlington Heights and every case is very different.

President Tinaglia asked if the individual on the bench has been given opportunities and denied them, which Mr. Recklaus explained how the Social Services Staff have done many things to try and help people and some people just choose to not go through the process.

Jean Wood, Arlington Heights resident and member of First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights, stated that the church council supports a compassionate approach to homelessness.

Denise Brown, Arlington Heights resident and Board Member of the Salvation Army Metropolitan Chicago, stated that they are the largest provider of human services in Chicago and if someone calls 311, staff from the Salvation Army will go to the homeless site and try and speak with the homeless individual(s). The head of social services said that it takes about seven times to speak with someone and get them to consider moving forward. Ms. Brown stated that she agrees with everyone who spoke against the ordinance and if a task force does form, she is happy to be on it.

Trustee Zyck stated that there is no actual ordinance that the Board is considering yet, as they are currently trying to figure out the next steps. Trustee Zyck advised that he has thought about his comments from the last meeting and how he suggested prohibiting individuals from sleeping or camping out on public property during the hours of 2:00 to 5:00 a.m., which would mirror the overnight parking ordinance, and now doesn't believe it would make a difference. Trustee Zyck asked Mr. Recklaus for a timeframe in terms of what the next steps are and when it comes to forming a task force, he suggested bringing in some of these organizations, such as PADS, into the conversation, as they need to get this figured out.

Trustee Shirley stated that it seems like there are already task forces addressing this issue, so he is unsure if another is needed. Trustee Shirley advised that he is concerned about Angel's safety, as the individuals who hang around her are not homeless, but trouble makers, and causing the residents in the nearby building to feel unsafe. Trustee Shirley advised that he is unsure what the answer is, but perhaps the Board can give the police a tool to move someone to a bench that is not in front of a residence or prospering business. Trustee Shirley stated that no one on the Board wants to criminalize the homeless and the thought that our police force would take advantage of this ordinance and persecute people and put them in jail is crazy.

Trustee Santa Maria stated that individuals are using the term criminalize tonight because an ordinance that prohibits people from sleeping outside is the actual

definition of criminalization. She also stated that police officers are being asked to do jobs of trained social workers, which they are not. Trustee Santa Maria advised that she is not in favor of directing staff to draft an ordinance, but is in favor of ensuring all residents of Arlington Heights have a welcoming and safe place to reside, and if that means it's on a bench, then we need to support them.

Trustee Bertucci stated that he understands that this particular case is very complex, but asked why hasn't anything that's been done helped. Mr. Recklaus advised that there have been numerous attempts by our Social Services Division to help this person, but because of the reluctance of the individual to engage in services, the situation remains unchanged. Trustee Bertucci asked what Staff and the Police Department need to move forward, which Mr. Recklaus advised that the Health & Human Services Department has stated that they would like better coordination with the County and have a regional approach with other municipalities to improve that interface between suburban communities and Cook County upon entering into the system. Mr. Recklaus advised the Village does not have the ability to compel this person, or anyone else, to seek services. If the goal is to not have someone not stay on a bench for weeks or months at a time, the Village does not have the authority currently to move someone off a bench. If the Board is so inclined to do this, that authority can be developed in the form of an ordinance. Trustee Bertucci asked Mr. Recklaus to explain the PADS program, which he advised that the PADS program is generally run in coordination with a local homeless shelter and various churches who host homeless individuals on certain days of the week, dependent on if they have enough volunteers and available beds. Journey – the Road Home, which is located in Palatine, also provides services for unhoused individuals, including meals, beds and they have a new program, which is a continuum of help for individuals to get an apartment with lower rents. Mr. Recklaus advised that PADS is not a government run program and the individual on the bench has been afforded the opportunity to participate in the PADS program, which she has declined. Trustee Bertucci stated that he does believe that corner deserves a little relief, which Mr. Recklaus advised that the individual on the bench considers that location to be her home. Trustee Bertucci stated there has to be something that can be done for this individual to protect her from herself, which Mr. Recklaus advised that is probably something outside the purview of the Village and is a broader public health issue, which is the challenge. Trustee Bertucci stated that it might be beneficial for the Board to receive regular reports regarding what the Village and the other agencies have done to help this individual, so that they are aware of what is going on.

President Tinaglia asked how the Park District enforces their ordinance, which Mr. Recklaus advised there is nothing written that requires the Police Department to enforce the Park District's ordinance. Chief Pecora advised that it is just assumed that the Police Department will enforce their ordinance, although the need for this has never occurred.

Trustee Dunnington thanked everyone who works and volunteers in the homeless response system, because if it weren't for their efforts, the homeless situation would be much worse. Trustee Dunnington stated that there are three things the Village

Board should work on in response to this issue, including the regional plan Mr. Recklaus discussed, as there is not a single town or organization that can solve this issue and working together is the key to this, and the Board should support allowing Staff time and resources to do this work. In addition, expanding affordable and attainable housing is key to addressing the homeless issue, and the Board should be supportive of housing developments, like Grace Terrace, which took a long time to approve. It's also important to strengthen and enforce the inclusionary ordinance the Village already has. Trustee Dunnington also suggested that if there are excess funds at the end of 2025, the Village should match the amount of the CDBG funds that each organization already received. Trustee Dunnington stated that she believes if these efforts are pursued, an ordinance is not needed at this time.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked Mr. Recklaus if he knows the number of homeless individuals sleeping on the streets at night, which he stated he does not. Trustee Schwingbeck advised that with all of the support from around our community, perhaps the PADS program could be run year-round, which would help get homeless people off the streets at night. In addition, Trustee Schwingbeck suggested that perhaps all of the bright individuals present at tonight's meeting could get together as a group and try and do something about this.

Trustee Santa Maria stated that she is uncomfortable with everyone discussing Angel's personal case and the information that is being shared publicly, as it's inappropriate and protected by HIPPA.

Trustee LaBedz thanked all of the individuals present for all of the work they do and have been doing for many years, as homelessness has always been a problem. Trustee LaBedz advised that these organizations are already working together and suggested that perhaps some of the church members present can go back to their congregation and encourage them to become PADS volunteers. Trustee LaBedz thanked Mr. Recklaus for taking the lead in forming these work groups with other communities to help approach this issue with a regional focus. Trustee LaBedz advised that the Board needs to support not only affordable housing, but supportive housing as well, and is uncomfortable with everyone labeling people with mental illness just because they are on the streets. Trustee LaBedz stated that she doesn't think they'll solve anything with an ordinance.

Trustee Manganaro asked if park and forest preserves typically have opening and closing hours, which Mr. Recklaus advised that it is up to the individual jurisdictions. Trustee Manganaro stated that park regulation is enforced by its opening and closing hours, therefore it is substantively different from a public street/sidewalk/bench. Trustee Manganaro advised that he cannot support such an ordinance, as the letter from the Illinois Department of Human Rights states that a public official is specifically prohibited from denying or refusing the full and equal enjoyment of facilities and services under their care. Trustee Manganaro advised that he also does not think it's appropriate to talk about a specific case or name an individual and also does not approve of, through an exercise of free will, someone getting scooped up. The unhoused are humans and have the same rights as any other human.

President Tinaglia discussed the parking garage ordinance that the Board passed a couple of years ago and asked how that situation was different from what is going on here, which Mr. Recklaus advised that at that time, there was an increase in activity in some of the parking facilities, including youth skateboarding, vandalism, overnight camping and unauthorized storage of personal property. The purpose of public parking garages is to park a vehicle and to walk to and from that vehicle and the ordinance states that if you are doing anything other than parking or walking to and from your vehicle, you are trespassing on Village property. The difference is that you can't dispute the purpose of a public parking facility, while there is no defined use of a bench or other public property. President Tinaglia asked if enforcement of the parking garage ordinance is not a violation of state law, according to what Trustee Manganaro read, which Mr. Passman advised that the ordinance affecting public parking garages is fully legal to enforce. President Tinaglia asked if a Village or municipality could do something similar to a parkway, park bench, or anywhere on public property, which Mr. Passman advised that there is a way to do this, although Illinois law prohibits applying laws to the unhoused differently than others. President Tinaglia stated that from his perspective he does not think that any specific park bench is anyone's home, as park benches are for everyone, and anyone who decides that this is their residency, is stretching the limits of your rights as a citizen. President Tinaglia advised he would like to deal with this in two ways, including creating a consortium comprised of a number of different organizations and municipalities, to help offer the right long-term assistance. In regards to the immediate situation, President Tinaglia does not believe it's fair to this person, nor is it comfortable for everyone who has to deal with it, therefore he would like to have a motion that requests our Village Staff to carry on in the direction of creating a consortium of like-minded staff members from other municipalities and other organizations of volunteer programs to help offer assistance. In addition, he would like our Police Department to have the tool in their tool belt to be able to tell individuals who have been in one public space too long, to move along. President Tinaglia thinks this is fair and reasonable and it gives the Village an opportunity to help people who want to be helped. The goal is to find a short and long-term solution.

Trustee Zyck stated that he thinks these should be two separate motions.

Chief Pecora stated that he has heard the words arrest, criminalization and jail used several times and would like to clarify some things. The legal definition of arrest is when you're detained and no longer free to leave a police officer. A local ordinance violation enacted by our Village Board will not put you in a county or state penal institution. Criminalization means once you get arrested and fingerprinted, it establishes a criminal record that's either reported to the Illinois State Police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A local ordinance offense does not establish a criminal record for you.

President Tinaglia stated that criminalization is a nasty word and no one on the Board is looking to criminalize anyone for this.

Trustee Manganaro stated that the best outcome with what President Tinaglia has

suggested is for the unhoused to move from place to place, which makes it harder for social workers to find them and help them. Trustee Manganaro thinks this would target people and make it a liability for the Village.

Trustee LaBedz stated that in regards to creating a consortium, it sounds like agencies are already working together, therefore there may not be a need to formally establish one. President Tinaglia suggested that a consortium could be established with individuals from other municipalities with the same title as our Social Worker Darren Brown, as well as church groups, with the goal of making it a regional effort. Trustee LaBedz advised that she thinks this might already be happening.

Trustee Bertucci stated that he would like to make a motion to address two things, a long-term and short-term solution to the homeless situation here in Arlington Heights. The long-term would be to direct staff to coordinate the creation of a consortium of organizations that care for or provide services to the homeless and government agencies, not exclusive to the Village of Arlington Heights. On a short-term basis to direct Staff to bring specific options to this Board to help those who need help in helping themselves from the weather and other threats that may exist when you stay the night outside.

President Tinaglia stated that he would like Staff to work towards an ordinance that gives our public safety professionals the ability to not allow someone to camp or sleep on a bench, whether it's between the hours of 2:00 – 5:00 AM, or whatever the time frame may be. Mr. Recklaus advised that Staff would need some additional clarification on what the Board is asking them to do in regards to regulating what activity in an ordinance.

Trustee Shirley suggested two options for a motion, with the first being to direct Staff to create an ordinance that you cannot be on a park bench and stay there for more than 48 hours, and the second being you cannot stay overnight on a park bench between midnight and 5:00 AM, which mirrors the Park District's ordinance. Mr. Recklaus advised that the Park District prohibits sleeping at any time.

President Tinaglia advised that he thinks the ordinance should prohibit sleeping overnight for more than a certain number of nights, because he wants to give the Police Department some leeway. Mr. Passman advised that a lot of this is new territory and the Village should do a little bit of analysis or a survey to what's going on particularly as it relates to having the ordinance take effect after a certain number of hours, as he wants to be sure that whatever is crafted is compliant with state law. An ordinance that applies during certain hours overnight without a multiple night issue is probably easier to comply with than a 48- or 72-hour rule. Mr. Passman stated that it would help to get what types of activity they would want regulated and a little bit of flexibility might be helpful.

Trustee Shirley asked what the Grants Pass ordinance prohibits, which Mr. Passman explained how Grants Pass, Oregon's ordinance simply prohibits sleeping on public sidewalks, streets or alleyways at any time. Trustee Shirley advised that they want to

be compassionate and give these people time to take advantage of the services being offered, but after a certain period of time, they will have to move along.

Mr. Recklaus stated that maybe in light of Mr. Passman's suggestion, perhaps there can be a motion to direct Staff to develop a draft ordinance that regulates the use of public property, including park benches, just to see if there is a vote threshold on this, and if there is, Staff can come up with concepts for consideration at a later date that would be compliant with the law and in concert with what was discussed tonight. If there isn't support for that type of ordinance, then the conversation is essentially over on this topic.

**Trustee Bertucci moved, seconded by Trustee Zyck, to direct Staff to be the coordinator for creating this consortium, that has already been informally created, of organizations to provide a long-term solution.**

Trustee Dunnington asked Chief Pecora if the parking garage ordinance has fully resolved the issue of people sleeping and storing property, which he advised that people sleeping and storing property night overnight does not occur anymore. Trustee Dunnington asked what happened to those individuals who were sleeping in the garage, which Chief Pecora stated he has no idea. Trustee Dunnington advised that she is not in support of this ordinance, as she feels the Village is already doing this work and the experts are telling them that they are working on this case, therefore it is not needed.

Trustee Santa Maria asked Mr. Recklaus if he has had any conversations with Oak Park, which he stated not on this issue. Trustee Santa Maria advised that Oak Park has faced some of the same challenges and partnered with non-profits and created outreach teams with trained social workers. They also invested in transitional housing and were able to move more people from the streets into stable homes. Trustee Santa Maria would like to see not just a consortium but the Village to be more proactive and create a response like that. Mr. Recklaus advised that he is happy to look outside our area and part of this initial group that has been assembled is to look at best practices.

Trustee Manganaro asked for the motion to be repeated, which Trustee Bertucci did.

Trustee LaBedz stated that she doesn't believe this is necessary, but will vote in favor of it. Trustee LaBedz advised that people have agency and if someone chooses to not get help, that's their right.

Trustee Zyck stated that this motion is strictly meant to look into the creation of a consortium to try and come up with a solution.

**Trustee Bertucci moved, seconded by Trustee Zyck, to direct Staff to coordinate the creation of a consortium of the organizations that are stepping up and bring to the Board updates and any implementation ideas and to include best practices.**

**The Motion: Passed**

**Ayes: Bertucci, Dunnington, LaBedz, Manganaro, Santa Maria, Schwingbeck, Shirley, Tinaglia, Zyck**

**Nays: None**

President Tinaglia asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to address the immediate situation. Mr. Passman advised that the Manager's suggestion was a sound one, which is simply to direct Staff and the Village Attorney to explore and develop for presentation at a future meeting an ordinance that would limit the ability of people to sleep or camp on public property subject to constitutional legal limits.

Trustee Santa Maria stated that if it took that long to figure out the motion, she is worried about legal limits and what they would be doing, therefore she is not in favor of this.

Trustee Dunnington read the definition of criminalization of homelessness and stated that she has heard several people tonight say that they don't want to criminalize homelessness, but wants them to own it if that is their intent.

Trustee LaBedz stated that she is interested in what Mr. Passman comes up with, as they will have to vote in favor of this direction to get to that point and will agree to it, which doesn't mean that she will be in favor of what he comes up with.

Trustee Manganaro stated that in the past 2 ½ hours they have created a public record that demonstrates an intent to find something they can apply based on housing status and he won't touch that.

**Trustee Shirely moved, seconded by Trustee Schwingbeck, to direct Staff and the Village Attorney to explore and develop for presentation at a future meeting an ordinance that would limit the ability of people to sleep or camp on public property subject to constitutional legal limits.**

**The Motion: Passed**

**Ayes: Bertucci, LaBedz, Schwingbeck, Shirley, Tinaglia**

**Nays: Dunnington, Manganaro, Santa Maria, Zyck**

President Tinaglia advised that this is a vote to explore what this ordinance might look like.

## **B. Discussion of an Amendment of the Village's Flag Policy Ordinance**

Mr. Recklaus advised that the Village recognizes various causes in various ways through proclamations generally and these are posted publicly on social media. The Village does about 30 of these issued proclamations a year, celebrating everything including Black History Month, Pride Month and Juneteenth, just to name a few. The question being posed to the Board is whether or not the Village should amend an

ordinance that they passed back in July of 2021 to fly flags on Village property for some of these causes. The ordinance that was passed in July of 2021 states that the only flags to be flown on Village property would be the flags of the United States, the State of Illinois, the Village of Arlington Heights and the POW flag. Mr. Recklaus stated that in recent months some Village Board members have asked to revisit the policy of whether or not the Village should be using flags as a way to represent different issues or not, and in past discussions Mr. Passman has talked about limitations on how that could be done without putting the Village in an uncomfortable position.

Tim O'Neil, Arlington Heights resident, advised that there was bill that was passed in 2019 that the POW flag should be displayed on all days that the US flag is flown at designated federal locations, therefore it does have a precedent for being flown with the State flag and has been flown in the Village for about 30 years. If the Village starts allowing other flags in Arlington Heights, how are they going to control what goes on and the resulting law suits and legal expenses. The Village should stay with the precedent that has already been set.

Amy Somary, Arlington Heights resident, stated that the Arlington Heights Memorial Library (AHML) flag policy is legal and doesn't allow just anyone to come in and fly whatever flag they want, so it can be done. The AHML Board approved the policy in May of 2022, and since that time, there have been zero problems or complaints. Ms. Somary stated that the LGBTQ+ community has felt very excluded and the Pride flag is a symbol of inclusivity. She is in favor of the Village developing a policy that would allow the Village to fly a flag, like the Pride flag, and encourages the Board to find a way to make this happen.

Janet McCarthy, Arlington Heights resident and Founder and President of Glen's Friends, stated that the Pride flag is a beacon of hope, particularly for the LGBTQ+ youth and it welcomes everyone. By flying the Pride flag, it lets all of our residents know that Arlington Heights is a community of love and acceptance and that all are welcome here.

Jean Wood, Arlington Heights and member of the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights, stated that many people have joined their church because of the Pride flag that flies in front of the church.

Austin Mejdrich, Arlington Heights resident and Wheeling Township Trustee, stated that he is urging the Board to support amending the ordinance to allow the flying of additional flags, including the Pride flag. The Village has the right to select which flags fly on Village property so long as they reflect established government speech. Government bodies can fly flags that represent their values while not opening a Pandora's box, which the Supreme Court made clear in a 2022 decision. Mr. Mejdrich advised that proclamations only go so far and visibility is crucial. Flying the Pride flag is a bold action declaring that all are welcome in our Village of Good Neighbors.

Ann Gillespie, Arlington Heights resident, stated that there is a perception across the State that Arlington Heights is a parochial community that does not welcome outsiders

and a relic of the past. Ms. Gillespie advised that one of the ways we can fix this negative perception is by making sure our deeds match our words and flying the Pride flag would do this. Ms. Gillespie stated that she hopes that the Board can find it in their hearts to modify the ordinance.

Nancy Frenk, Arlington Heights resident, stated that flying different flags, including the LGBTQ+ rainbow flag, is more than symbolic, it is a declaration of who we are and what we stand for in our community. The rainbow flag represents love, diversity and the courage to live authentically. Ms. Frenk thanked the Board for considering an amendment to the Village Flag Policy Ordinance.

Cindy Thornton, Arlington Heights resident, stated that she is present to propose a change to the 2021 Flag Ordinance and would like the ordinance to allow special interest flags, such as the gay Pride flag. This flag is recognized world-wide as a symbol of dignity and community, representing a wide spectrum of identities. Let's show the world that Arlington Heights appreciates the importance of equality, diversity and freedom.

Mari Van Meter, Arlington Heights resident, stated that she supports the proposal for change. The Village currently only allows four flags and this proposal would give the Village, with discretion, the ability to consider other flags already recognized at the state and federal level, such as the Pride or Juneteenth flag. A Trustee would have to bring it forward and the Board would have to approve it. Flying these flags is not about politics, it's about people. This proposal for change is simply another way to say everyone is included.

Daniel Crusius, Arlington Heights resident, stated that one thing he likes about Arlington Heights is that multiple churches and the library fly Pride flags and is asking the Board to fly the Pride flag and Juneteenth flag in the month of June. By flying the Pride flag in Arlington Heights, we will show that we are good neighbors and will set a positive example of welcoming one another.

Nicolle Grasse, Arlington Heights resident, stated that she supports all who have spoken in support of flying the Pride flag. The Pride flag is not about politics, it's about people and it's our way of saying to everyone that you are welcome, you are safe and you are at home here in Arlington Heights.

Kevin Morrison, Cook County Commissioner, stated that he represents 325,000 people here in the Northwest suburbs and led the charge to fly the Pride flag in the month of June at Cook County buildings. The Pride flag is a flag of love and he assured the Board that no one has come to them requesting to put up a flag of hate. Mr. Morrison stated that each Board member has a voice and there could be individuals who can be impacted by their vote.

Michael Brown, Arlington Heights residents, stated that he believes that flying the Pride flag is a symbol of diversity, inclusion and love and represents visibility and acceptance. He believes the Village of Arlington Heights should adopt a policy to allow

the flag to be flown during the month of June, as it extends a message of acceptance and safety.

Tom Hayes, Arlington Heights resident, stated that the prior Village Board enacted the Flag Ordinance for one purpose, which is to prevent divisive, controversial discussions about special interest flags that might fly on Village Hall's flag poles. These flag poles stand for the thoughts and beliefs of 77,000 people in the Village of Arlington Heights, not just the LGBTQ+ community or any other special interest group, which is why he originally proposed the ordinance. He encourages the Village Board to make no amendments to the Flag Ordinance as it is currently enacted.

Janice Phers, Arlington Heights resident, stated that this flag represents the most basic human rights and the right to exist.

Christina Crusius, Arlington Heights resident, stated that she supports an amendment to the Flag Ordinance and this is not about special interest groups, it's about people and their humanity. The Board is a little different now, due to the will of the people, and they have the right to seek an amendment.

Edward Monson, resident of Arlington Heights, stated that the United States flag is a great flag, but not the only flag that gives people hope, and for the minority, including LGBTQ+ and Juneteenth, they need this show of support. Mr. Monson stated that he would like the Board to consider an amendment to the ordinance carefully.

Beth Nabors, resident of Arlington Heights, stated that this is a simple decision about inclusivity and making sure people feel accepted and loved. Ms. Nabors urged the Board to make good decisions for everyone.

Trustee Manganaro advised that Arlington Heights has a right to its own speech and has already begun to assert that through the LGBTQ+ and Pride Month Proclamations. The Village should extend this assertion of Village speech to include flying the Pride Flag and does support certain others, as the Village does have the capacity to craft an ordinance that is specific and allows flags to be flown with or without a process. Trustee Manganaro believes this one is important because it a starting point and is about who is welcome and who is safe in our Village. These expressions of support for arguably the most marginalized of communities, the least safe of communities, is a starting point that needs to be made, which is why he supports moving forward with a narrow ordinance to allow the Village to fly more flags, starting with the Pride flag.

Trustee Dunnington stated that while researching flag policies, she found that it is important to have consistent and transparent guidelines to avoid potential First Amendment challenges and believes Arlington Heights can do this by linking the flag policy to the official Village Proclamations. An updated flag policy would allow the Village to fly a flag at Village Hall that is in honor of causes that are recognized by Arlington Heights Proclamations. The flag policy would require an organization to provide an established flag to the Village 30 days beforehand and it would be flown during the month of the Proclamation. No foreign flags or those associated with a hate

group would be flown. A flag is a much more visible communication tool and would make Arlington Heights a more welcoming community.

**Trustee Dunnington moved, seconded by Trustee Manganaro, that the Committee of the Whole instruct Staff to draft an update to the flag policy to allow established flags to be flown at Village Hall that represent its Proclamations. A 3' X 5' flag with holes would be provided by an organization with 30 days advance notice. Foreign flags and flags associated with a hate group would not be flown.**

Trustee Bertucci asked how many Proclamations the Village has, which Mr. Recklaus stated that there are around 28 core Proclamations that are done annually. Trustee Bertucci asked about the 2022 Supreme Court case *Shurtleff v. City of Boston* where the City of Boston was not going to allow a Christian Flag to be flown, even though they allowed other special interest flags to be flown. Mr. Passman advised that Boston has flag poles outside of city hall and took requests from the public to fly flags and approved approximately 50 of them, without denying one. An individual applied to fly a flag that had various obvious Christian markings and the City of Boston denied that flag. The Supreme Court said that because Boston never denied anybody, and that anybody could come forth with whatever flag for them to fly, the flag poles no longer reflected government speech, but reflected a public forum, and in a public forum the government could not discriminate on the basis of viewpoint. The Court did make a point of stating in such a case that there is such a thing as government speech, which is speech by the government, expressing its own views. Trustee Bertucci asked if the Village is exposing itself to lawsuits even if they propose a narrow policy, which Mr. Passman advised that he does not believe an ordinance that establishes a set and identifiable set of flags would violate the First Amendment. If it's too broad and too big it sounds more like the *Shurtleff* case. Trustee Bertucci advised that he still thinks there is risk here of opening themselves up. Trustee Bertucci stated that he would like the public to understand how much the proclamations mean and how they speak volumes about being welcome and safe and will vote against any type of amendment to the flag policy, but anyone who knows him, knows that he has a very welcome and safe home for anyone in the LGBTQ+ community.

Trustee Santa Maria stated that kids are watching us and the Pride flag does mean something to all of us. She will stand with our community members, as flags mean different things to different people and if this is a way to support the community, she will absolutely stand with that and is in favor of an ordinance that would give the Village the legal protection to do this and perhaps look at the previous amendment where if it is being flown on a state or federal level, the Village can consider it.

Trustee LaBedz advised that four years ago she voted in opposition of the ordinance that was passed, as she believes flying the Pride flag, as well as others, is appropriate, welcoming and the right thing to do and supports Trustee Dunnington's motion. If there is any reason Mr. Passman feels it would need to be tightened up, she is open to other recommendations. Trustee LaBedz thinks that Trustee Dunnington's idea is a good one, as the Village has already said that they support the community for which the proclamation is made and the flag would be a visual symbol of that support.

Trustee Shirley asked what the process is for having a proclamation approved, as he has never been asked if he supports these proclamations. Trustee Shirley stated that if this link between the proclamations and the flag flying were to occur, he thinks there would have to be a formalized proclamation procedure to make sure everyone agrees with it. Mr. Recklaus stated that it is practice, as the core proclamations are not adopted by the Village in a formal way. If a member of the community wants to put forth a proclamation, and if the Mayor and Village Manager feel there is likely to be no objection to it, the proclamation will go in the Friday packet, and if there are not any objections by the Board, it goes on the proclamation list. Mr. Recklaus and Mr. Passman agree that this informal practice has worked and if a Trustee were to raise a concern asking for one to be removed, it would be discussed and decided either formally or by a poll. If something were to be attached to this, Staff would recommend adopting a more formal policy for identifying the core proclamations. Trustee Shirley stated that he is not in support of changing the ordinance as it stands right now, as the United States flag represents everyone, and if the Village starts this process of opening it up to everyone, it's a slippery slope.

Trustee Zyck advised that he is so proud of living in the number one safest Village in this State and is proud to have voted for flying the Pride flag at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library while President of the Board, because it was the right thing to do. Trustee Zyck stated that he voted against the original policy because they were discussing a flag policy, and not just flying the Pride flag. He does worry about the legal ramifications, as the ruling has not been tested much and he does not want to put the Village he represents in that position. Trustee Zyck stated that he believes in the United States flag, the State of Illinois flag and the Village of Arlington Heights flag, as they represent so much to so many people, and they are just looking at the flag policy right now. Trustee Zyck stated that he does not want to get into the flag industry and thinks the current ordinance is good and doing the right thing for everybody in the Village.

Trustee Schwingbeck stated that when he first became a Trustee in 2019 the proclamation process was discussed at one of the meetings, and not fully understanding the process he brought up the Pride proclamation at the end of the meeting, and it was shortly after that when the Village Board went ahead and did the Pride proclamation, which he is very proud of. Trustee Schwingbeck stated that he found the comments about the Village of Arlington Heights not being welcoming very strange, as we were just voted number one in the State and number twelve out of all the cities in the United States. There is a reason why that happened and why so many people have chosen to live in this community for so many years. Trustee Schwingbeck explained how so many Pride flags are flown throughout town and at this time doesn't see a need to fly one more flag at Village Hall. He would like to keep the ordinance the way it is and would like Staff to explore, besides the proclamations, to see if there is something else we can do as a community to recognize these organizations on a regular basis.

Trustee Santa Maria stated that the Board is being asked to doing something tangible and very specific to show support and they have an opportunity to say yes. She thinks

they should listen to the residents who are turning out and emailing them, to show them that they are comfortable and safe here. Trustee Santa Maria advised that she struggles with the fact that they just tested a little bit the legality of moving unhoused people but they're not willing to test the legality of a flag pole.

**Trustee Manganaro moved, seconded by Trustee Santa Maria, to amend Trustee Dunnington's motion to instruct the Staff and Village Attorney to craft a potential ordinance that is defensible, and come back to them with a recommendation, whether it is a recommendation for one flag, or a recommendation for a limited set a flags, similar to the Library's policy that allows a Trustee to propose that a flag that is already established and flown over the United States or the State Capital to be flown.**

**The Motion: Passed**

**Ayes: Dunnington, LaBedz, Manganaro, Santa Maria, Zyck**

**Nays: Bertucci, Schwingbeck, Shirley, Tinaglia**

Mr. Passman asked Trustee Manganaro for some clarification on his intent in crafting this as an amendment and how it would interact with the main motion. Trustee Manganaro advised that it would replace the proclamations with either something along the lines of the Library's policy or a single flag addition to the existing policy. Trustee Manganaro stated that he would like to get the recommendation of the Staff and Village Attorney about a defensible ordinance.

Mr. Recklaus stated that Trustee Dunnington's motion was to take the list of proclamations, and if someone brought forward a flag that represented those proclamations, then it could be flown at Village Hall. Mr. Recklaus asked for clarification of the intent of the amended motion and if it's just for the Pride flag, or is to develop a policy that would allow the Village to fly flags in general. Trustee Manganaro advised that the intent is to get a recommendation on a defensible ordinance, whether it is to fly one flag or to adopt a policy that is similar to those that have been adopted for some number of years without being challenged, such as the Library's.

President Tinaglia stated that even if something is defensible, doesn't mean you can't get sued. You can get sued for anything. President Tinaglia advised that his position is the same now as it was in 2021, and this is about whether or not you want to be in the flag business, which he does not. He stated that the flags we have now are right for everybody and are the ultimate inclusivity, and does believe we are a wonderful, welcoming community. President Tinaglia stated that as soon as the Village picks a side for a special consideration, there is going to be an opposite reaction and he doesn't want to spend tax dollars because the Village gets sued. This is about trying to be careful and his position is no.

**Trustee Dunnington moved, seconded by Trustee Santa Maria, to direct Staff and the Village Attorney to present options for a defensible ordinance, that**

**would allow the flying of additional flags, whether that be simply adding the Pride flag, or adopting an Arlington Heights Memorial Library style policy, or perhaps the proclamation-based policy, or some other mechanism by which additional flags would be flown.**

**The Motion: Failed**

**Ayes: Dunnington, LaBedz, Manganaro, Santa Maria**

**Nays: Bertucci, Schwingbeck, Shirley, Tinaglia, Zyck**

President Tinaglia advised the motion to direct the drafting has failed.

### **Other Business**

None.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Trustee LaBedz moved, seconded by Trustee Schwingbeck, to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 p.m. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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VILLAGE OF  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
INC. 1887

**Committee of the Whole**  
**9/15/2025**

**Item:** Interview of Sara Altieri for appointment to the Arts  
Commission, term ending April 30, 2028

**Department:** Integrated Services

**Item Description:**

Sara Altieri is a talented muralist who has a passion for the visual arts. She has worked alongside engineers, landscape architects, planners and other professionals during her career. She believes that public art can drive economic growth, build cultural understanding and identity, and create meaningful conversations across diverse groups. Her mission is to positively transform people and communities through color, creativity and art.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None