



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 4th 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 18th 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.

250th July 4th Celebration

Staff proposed additional 4th of July events to commemorate the 250th 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 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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