

**Minutes
Village of Arlington Heights
Senior Citizens Commission
Commissions Room-33 S Arlington Heights Road, A.H. 60005
September 15, 2025
6 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Vogt called the meeting to order at 6 PM. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Sharon Adams

George Motto

Corinne Drew

Steve Raminiak

Gary Wood

Fred Vogt, Chair

Ellyn Zimmerman

Fred Feldman

Also Present: ☐

Tracey Colagrossi, Liaison

Mila Tsgalais, HHS Director

Not Present:

Sue Viecegli

Tim Carter

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 18, 2025, Minutes

CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2025, BE ACCEPTED. COMMISSIONER FELDMAN MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOTTO. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2025, WERE ACCEPTED.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairpersons Report

Chairperson Vogt reported that Commissioner Motto, Director Tsgalais met with Wheeling Township Supervisor Zeller Brauer and Trustee Geyer last Friday. He commented that the Food Pantry on the lower level of the building is most impressive with its organization of food for people to pick out and shop. The discussion revolved around senior services in the area and how the Village and Township serve and could potentially collaborate.

B. Liaison Report

Senior Center Manager Tracey Colagrossi reported that the Wheeling Township Mental Health Board presented to the funding request for a support group to be held in person and a separate one on the phone. Commissioner Vogt advised that it may be November before a decision is made on funding requests.

Health and Human Services and Senior Services presented their 2026 Budgets to the Finance Department on Tuesday, September 19.

The next Roadshow event for the Senior Center will be at the Arlington Heights Trunk or Treat event at Pioneer Park on October 24. Over 800 families generally attend. This event will have staff manning the tables. Other upcoming events are Autumn Fest and Harmony Fest in October.

September/October program registration has been robust with a lot of programs filling to capacity. The Oktoberfest has 110 patrons attending, which is the maximum to serve patrons a quality experience.

C. Non-for-Profit Corporation

The Arlington Heights Senior Center, Inc. Foundation cancelled the Pickleball Tournament on September 13 at Dryden Courts due to thunderstorms in the area.

There was not enough interest for the Billiards Fall Tournament scheduled for Saturday, September 27 and that was canceled as well.

Program Coordinator, Sarah Adelpia, conducted a focus group for the Live Well, Age Well newsletter last week with six people participating. We are seeking feedback on the content, ease of readability, and any other suggestions for the publication. The newsletter will add four more pages which will enable staff to increase font size effective in January 2026.

D. Senior Center Advisory Council

The next events from the Advisory Council are

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

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

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

E. Legislation

House Bill 1226, which eliminates the driver's test for senior citizens, 79 to 87. Did pass, it was signed by the governor on August 15th. It will be effective July 1st, 2026. And its formal identity is Public Act 104-0169.

The other piece of legislation discussed last month was House Bill 3438, which ostensibly was designed to restructure the RTA. And there was some confusion as to what the bill was all about. Commissioner Feldman checked the bill as originally introduced in the House, and it had nothing to do with the RTA. Commissioner Feldman reached out to Marnie Pike, who's a writer for the Herald, and she clarified the situation.

The House passed 3438, but it had nothing to do with the RTA. And they sent it on to the Senate for confirmation. The Senate then amended the whole bill eliminating everything that the House had passed and there are four amendments that are still pending, one of which is the complete restructuring of the RTA. The Senate passed 3438 with their amendments and sent it back to the House. It's now in the Rules Committee of the House waiting for assignment to committees for consideration whether or not it'll be done at the veto session or if they carry it over into the regular session.

Any activity in the General Assembly during the veto session requires a supermajority to pass. Of course, the Democrats have super majorities in both houses. We'll know more in October after the veto session. And the fiscal cliff has a date certain at the end of 2025. The question is the resource, the revenue. Discussions are perhaps a meal delivery tax and other types of taxes.

F. Age-Friendly Community Certification

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

1. Transportation/Affordable Housing Report

Commissioner Raminiak reported that the survey to assess older adult's need for housing affordability gained more responses after it was incentivized with offering program dollars for programs. With eighty responses, the survey had 16 respondents self-report that they spend over 30% of their income on housing.

Commissioner Raminiak added that next best step is to share this data with the Housing Commission. The Transportation subcommittee will create recommendations as to how a program might look like to help older adults stay in their homes. A short memo created for the Housing Commission to be presented with the data collected. At the last Housing Commission, Commissioner Vogt and Raminiak reported that the Housing Commission requested any data to share that would be helpful. The Commission discussed the memo and requested it to be sent to the Housing Commission.

CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO SEND THE MEMO AND DATA TO THE HOUSING COMMISSION. COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOTTO. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION PASSED.

Chairperson Vogt stated that the meeting between Wheeling Township Supervisor, Trustee, Health & Human Services Director, Liaison, along with Commissioner Motto and himself will be rescheduled for Friday, September 12 at 11 AM at Wheeling Township. The discussion will be around Age-Friendly and transportation.

Commissioner Feldman reported the RTA had a public forum a week ago Wednesday. He monitored to find out what the RTA was doing. The subject of the call was the communication systems of any of the public transit agencies are interacting.

They're all separate and distinct. And one of the goals of the RTA is to integrate them all into one single comprehensive communication system, which they say will take from one to three years to achieve. The RTA is still facing a \$771 million fiscal cliff. The General Assembly has brought has made several suggestions ideas on fundraising so that the RTA can be financed by the General Assembly without a lot of fare increases and service cutbacks. One idea was a "pizza tax" which would have people who order food delivery or items online a \$1.50 tax on the transaction.

2. Communications

The Communication Subcommittee met prior to the regular meeting. They made corrections to the Age-Friendly Livable Community Progress Report and Action Plan 2025-2027. The report will be ready to submit to AARP Livable Communities.

G. Kenneth Hood Award

Chairperson Vogt reported that the award winners were notified, and a presentation date is scheduled for Monday, September 15 at 7:30 PM at the Village Board Meeting. A reception will immediately follow in the Buechner Room on the first floor.

H. Intergenerational Outreach

For District 214's upcoming Vibrant Living Expo/Senior Celebration on Sept 24 from 4-6, student volunteers (to enhance the "vibrancy" of the event) and have shared the sign up and opportunity with Rolling Meadows High School service students, St. Viator's student body, ESCO leaders, Forest View students, and Hersey High School Service Over Self students.

This Friday is the first Kid Connections event on site here at the AHSC. Hersey students are coming over to meet our participants and plan for the year. These meetings will continue once a month through the end of the school year.

Patrons will be traveling to Hersey High School for a "Back to School" trip on Monday, Sept 22. They will meet the principal, see some classes in action, and enjoy lunch with students.

The Senior Center will be participating in St Viator's Day of Service on October 21. We will host a group of students here participating in different projects and programs

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission discussed the bike and scooter ordinance and possibility other restrictions to these new devices. The concern was the rate of speed that the vehicles go, any passengers aboard, and helmet safety. The commission was also concerned with education and safety implementation.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be on Monday, October 20 at 7 pm.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO ADJORN. COMMISSIONER RAMINIAK MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER

FELDMAN. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:56 PM.