



**Minutes
Youth Commission
Village Hall, Commissions Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd.
August 28, 2025
6:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Son called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present

Alice Son, Chair

Matt Healy

Taryn Holdman

Afroz Hafeez

Jennifer Borrell

Colin Smith

Riley Phillips

Maria Georgakopoulos

Christopher Wong

Also Present

Mila Tsagalis, Liaison

Kimberly Witt, Administrative Assistant

Keith Mowens

Absent

Alejandria Galarza

Aleena Patel

Ava McQuade

Chair Son introduced the new Liaison, Mila Tsagalis. Chair Son also noted that the new Commissioner Alejandria Galarza, was unable to attend. All attendees introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from May 15, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Hong to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved by unanimous consent.

IV. REPORTS

A. Library

Chair Son reported on the library's summer reading program, noting that this year had one of the highest registration numbers since post-COVID. Many children and teens participated and collected prizes.

She shared that the library will begin monthly Tinker Days at District 214 schools, with the first event scheduled for next week at Prospect High School. Commissioners were invited to stop by during lunchtime.

Chair Son also announced the upcoming College Knowledge Program, "Strategies for a Smarter Search," scheduled for Saturday, September 13 at 11:00 a.m. at the library. The program is designed for high school students to help them explore and identify their best-fit college. Commissioners were encouraged to spread the word to interested students.

B. Park District

Commissioner Healy reported that the summer season has ended, except for Pioneer Park's pool, which remains open due to the closure of The Ridge Center indoor pool for construction until at least October 2. He noted that the Recreation Pool is also closed for renovations, resulting in two major projects underway at the same time.

He shared that the Park District is planning fall events and preparing the winter guide. There are open positions available, and those interested can reach out to him directly for connections.

Commissioner Healy added that they look forward to collaborating with the library on the preschool event in February and the Teen Job Fair in March.

Chair Son noted that the new Recreation Park playground now features a Story Walk, which allows families to enjoy a picture book while visiting the playground.

C. Police Department

Commissioner Holdman reported that the summer season is wrapping up and the students are back in school. School Resource Officers are visiting schools and reminding parents about child safety and importance of being mindful of information shared on social media.

D. Schools

No report.

E. Members at Large

Commissioners Hong and Georgakopoulos from Buffalo Grove High School reported that students are adjusting to being back in school and fall activities have begun.

They noted ongoing construction, including the removal of tennis courts to create new fields for soccer and lacrosse. The construction has affected parking, and the school community is working to manage the situation.

They added that there are more clubs this year compared to last year, and the first football game is scheduled for Friday against Hoffman Estates.

Commissioners Phillips and Gala reported that students are happy to be back at school. Back-to-school activities included assemblies and school spirit events. Fall sports have begun, and benchmark testing and club rush were completed. Last week was Safety Week, during which all drills were practiced. Tomorrow is the first football game against Stevenson.

Commissioner Smith reported that St. Viator has a new Principal. Several changes have been implemented, including a revised schedule that provides an hour and a half in the middle of the day for lunch, club meetings, homeroom, and intramurals, though it adds ten extra minutes to the school day. The first football game is against Marian Catholic.

Commissioner Borrell stated it was nice to see everyone at the meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Social Media Proposal

Chair Son noted that the next step is to schedule a time for Commissioners McQuade and Smith to meet with Avis Meade, Communications and Outreach Manager for the Village, to present the proposal. Commissioner Smith provided an overview of the proposal to new members, which involves creating an Instagram account for the Youth Commission to manage and use to promote events to the youth of Arlington Heights.

Ms. Tsagalis reported that she briefly discussed the proposal with Ms. Meade, who suggested the possibility of “takeover days,” during which the Youth Commission could post content on the Village’s Instagram page. Ms. Meade will review the pros and cons of the Commission having its own account while also exploring opportunities to enhance the Village’s page, gather feedback from younger audiences, and identify ways to improve the Village’s social media presence. Ms. Tsagalis will facilitate the meeting between the Commissioners and Ms. Meade.

B. Lawn Mowing Referral Program

Chair Son noted that there was limited promotion of the program over the summer following the Teen Job Fair and that she did not have numbers to report at this meeting. She also mentioned that the Snow Shoveling Referral Program will be starting soon and will likely be discussed at the next meeting.

There was discussion about adding a raking/yard clean-up program. Chair Son suggested having one application for all referral programs so teens would only need to complete it once. Feedback was positive, as this approach would save time and could encourage more teens to apply. It was noted, however, that each referral program should still be promoted separately. Additionally, there was discussion about providing applicants with bi-monthly text or email reminders to promote the seasonal programs.

C. Teen Job Fair

Chair Son noted that the Teen Job Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Arlington Ridge Center. Traditionally, Commissioners have reached out to businesses in January or February, but it was previously suggested that outreach could occur earlier. Chair Son added that she can promote to participating businesses in the library’s December or January newsletter, which is distributed to all households. There was also discussion about engaging the Chamber of Commerce to assist in recruiting businesses.

The Commission decided that each Youth member will bring five additional business names to the next meeting and coordinate outreach. Chair Son will provide a view-only spreadsheet of the businesses currently being contacted. When asked if marketing materials will be ready by the next meeting, Chair Son confirmed that the form and letter

will be prepared. Additionally, it was requested that photos of the Youth Commissioners be taken at the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Youth Commissioners' Projects

The Commission discussed several opportunities, including participating in a walk for the American Heart Association, recruiting volunteers to share college prep tips, inviting testing companies to sponsor a class, and engaging in other group volunteer activities. Chair Son requested that the Youth Commissioners to reach out to their schools to identify what resources are currently available for ACT or SAT preparation and report back at the next meeting. It was also decided that Commissioners should bring ideas of volunteer opportunities to the next meeting.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Announcements / Correspondence

1. E-bikes and Scooters Discussion

Ms. Tsagalis discussed the increasing use of e-bikes and scooters in Arlington Heights and the potential need for regulations and public education. She noted that other communities have implemented rules, and the Village Board is seeking insight from the Senior Citizens' Commission, Youth Commission, and Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Discussion included safety concerns such as high speeds, sidewalk use, and helmet requirements, as well as equity considerations since e-bikes and scooters provide transportation for youth without driver's licenses. The role of the police in enforcement was also noted, given current limitations. The Youth Commission may be tasked with education and outreach, including communicating new safety rules effectively to users, potentially using social media.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public guest Keith Mowens commented that he encourages the Youth Commission to take the e-bike discussion seriously, provide input, and make recommendations to ensure the ordinance is fair.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hong, seconded by Commissioner Hafeez, moved to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. all concurred and the motion carried unanimously.