



**Minutes
Youth Commission
Village Hall, Commissions Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd.
May 15, 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
Aleena Patel
Riley Phillips
Maria Georgakopoulos
Christopher Wong
Ava McQuade

Also Present

James McCalister, Liaison
Kimberly Witt, Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Moore
Tyler Bennett

Absent

Afroz Hafeez
Jennifer Borrell
Colin Smith
Sydney Galla

Chair Son introduced the newest members, Commissioners Patel and Georgakopoulos. All attendees introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from February 20, 2025

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

IV. REPORTS

A. Library

Chair Son reported that the library is gearing up for finals week, with the finals study lounge opening this Saturday at noon and running until the end of the school year. She encouraged students to drop by, enjoy some snacks, and make use of the available tables.

For those interested in earning service hours, the library has an upcoming opportunity. Teen Donut Day will be held on June 6 in celebration of National Donut Day, featuring crafts and games.

Additionally, the library is preparing for summer, with the summer reading program starting on June 1 and continuing through the end of July. The more you read, the more rewards you earn, including a free book at the end of the program.

B. Park District

Commissioner Healy reported that staff training for summer programs is underway, with pools set to open next weekend and camps starting the following week. Over 300 staff members, including lifeguards, cashiers, and concession staff, have been hired and trained.

On June 9, the Park District will kick off its 100-year anniversary celebrations with the dedication and opening of the Rec Park playground. Themed celebrations will continue throughout the year.

Commissioner Healy also mentioned that the Park District offers many opportunities for volunteer hours, and students are encouraged to check the website for more information.

In August, additional renovations will take place at Rec Park around the pool, with the entire park expected to be fully renovated by next summer. The Ridge Center is also undergoing renovations to expand its facilities.

C. Police Department

Commissioner Holdman reported that they are gearing up for the Memorial Day parade. With summer being their busiest season, they are getting ready for all the upcoming summer events.

D. Schools

No report.

E. Members at Large

Commissioner McQuade from Hersey High School reported that students are preparing for finals. Many sports teams are beginning their conference competitions, including sectionals, regionals, and state tournaments.

Commissioners Hong and Georgakopoulos from Buffalo Grove High School reported that AP exams have concluded and state testing was held a few weeks ago. Sports seasons are coming to an end, and summer sports camps are beginning. Students are also getting ready for finals.

Commissioner Patel from Rolling Meadows High School reported that spring sports are in full swing. Seniors graduated earlier in the day and have completed their school year.

Commissioner Phillips from Prospect High School reported that AP testing is underway, and students are focused on finishing the school year.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Lawn Mowing Referral Program

Chair Son provided an overview of the Lawn Mowing Referral Program and distributed flyers to the members. She explained that it is the Youth Commissioners who promote the program by distributing flyers, posting them on school boards, or using other available school channels. Commissioner Hong shared that he spoke to his friends about the program and encouraged them to spread the word. Mr. McCalister noted that 30 students are currently signed up for the program, with Prospect High School having the highest participation at 9 students.

B. 2026-2027 Strategic Priorities for Village of Arlington Heights

Chair Son shared that every two years, the Village develops a set of Strategic Priorities to guide its focus and initiatives. The current 2024–2025 priorities are set to conclude at the end of this year, and the Trustees are in the process of developing the next set for 2026–2027. She informed the Commission of the items she submitted to the Village for consideration.

C. Teen Job Fair

Commissioner Phillips introduced the Teen Job Fair to the new Commissioners. She explained that Youth Commissioners are responsible for reaching out to businesses to participate in the event. They also promote the Job Fair, which gives teens the opportunity to connect with potential employers. Chair Son reported that 323 teens attended this year's event.

Chair Son requested feedback on the Teen Job Fair, specifically regarding whether to continue offering the parents' lounge. In previous years, businesses expressed a preference to speak directly with teens without parent involvement. While it appeared that fewer parents used the lounge this year, it remains a nice amenity.

The Commission also discussed strategies to increase business participation next year, including starting outreach earlier and considering the addition of food service businesses to the event.

Another topic discussed was the raffle held during the Job Fair. Commissioners agreed that drawing a raffle prize every 30 minutes was effective, as it allowed teens to witness the winners being announced throughout the event rather than drawing the raffle after the event.

The layout of the Welcome Desk, which was more spread out this year, was seen as an improvement compared to previous years. It helped reduce crowding and allowed Commissioners to interact with attendees more effectively without having to talk over one another.

D. Social Media Proposal

Commissioner McQuade shared background on the social media proposal, explaining that the Commission is looking for new ways to raise awareness about its work, membership, and initiatives. She noted that while posters are helpful, their reach is limited, and the Commission is seeking more effective methods of outreach to connect with a youth audience.

As part of this effort, she mentioned the idea of “buddy projects,” where Youth Commissioners develop a service project during their term. She and Commissioner Smith proposed creating an Instagram account specifically for the Youth Commission as their project. Commissioner McQuade outlined the benefits of having a dedicated Instagram page, including the ability to share timely updates, showcase events, highlight Commissioners’ contributions, and directly engage with peers. She noted that this platform would offer more flexibility and a stronger youth voice than posting content solely through the Village’s social media channels.

Commissioner McQuade presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing the proposal, which included several options for managing the Instagram account. The presentation covered topics such as content creation and account oversight. Following the presentation, the Commission discussed next steps for moving the proposal forward, including the process for gaining formal approval and establishing guidelines for account management.

The Commission voted unanimously to move forward with the project, with all in favor and no opposition.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Announcements / Correspondence

B. Honoring the service of Commissioners Bauer, Jochaniewicz, Moore and Village Liaison, James McCalister

Chair Son congratulated Commissioners Bauer and Jochaniewicz on their graduations. She also recognized Commissioner Moore for her service on the Commission since 2000 and acknowledged the retirement of James McCalister, longtime Liaison to the Commission. Chair Son thanked all for their dedication and service.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McQuade, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, moved to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. all concurred and the motion carried unanimously.