



AGENDA
Youth Commission
Arlington Ridge Center
660 N. Ridge Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
February 19, 2026
6:00 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
 - III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. December 4, 2025 Minutes
 - IV. REPORTS
 - A. Library
 - B. Park District
 - C. Police Department
 - D. Schools
 - E. Members at Large
 - V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Teen Job Fair
Youth and Adult Commissioners will provide updates on invitations for businesses and discuss planning the program.
 - B. Lawn Moving & Snow Shoveling Referral Program
 - VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - VII. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. Announcements / Correspondence
 - VIII. 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.
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

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**Minutes
Youth Commission
Village Hall, Commissions Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd.
December 4, 2025
6:04 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

Alejandria Galarza

Maria Georgeakopoulos

Christopher Hong

Alejandria Galarza

Sydney Galla

Colin Smith

Also Present

Mila Tsagalis, Liaison

Kimberly Witt, Administrative Assistant

Absent

Riley Phillips

Aleena Patel

Afroz Hafeez

Taryn Holdman

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from October 16, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Hong to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025, meeting, seconded by Commissioner McQuade and approved by unanimous consent.

IV. REPORTS

A. Library

Ms. Galarza reported that the library hosted a Teen Clue Program in late October, a live-action version of the game Clue in which participants moved through rooms to solve a mystery. The program was very successful. She also noted that a volunteer appreciation event for teen volunteers will be held, including pizza, and that staff will begin planning a children's scavenger hunt later in the year.

Ms. Galarza announced that the Final Study Lounge will begin on Saturday, December 13. The program will provide snacks, study space, supplies, and an occasional therapy dog visit, including one scheduled for Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

She also reported that the Winter Reading Program will begin on December 13. Participants may earn prizes for reading, including school-related reading. Additional winter break activities will include hot chocolate, free books from publishers, and prize incentives to encourage participation.

B. Park District

Mr. Healy reported that the Park District has several upcoming special events and operational updates. This weekend, the Park District will host a Holiday Express event, in which children ride a train to Barrington and participate in a winter festival featuring crafts, hot chocolate, snacks, and a visit with Santa. Next weekend, Frostival will take place on the museum grounds near the library. He noted that volunteers are often needed for these events.

Mr. Healy also shared that seasonal rehiring has already begun, including lifeguards and concession staff, with certifications and training underway for next year. Recruitment efforts are starting early, and he encouraged residents to monitor the Park District's website for summer job opportunities ahead of the upcoming job fair. Planning is already underway for future seasons, including preparation of the summer brochure.

Additionally, Mr. Healy provided updates on major Park District projects and events. Planning for Frontier Days is underway, despite ongoing construction at the pool site. The historic park building will be preserved and renovated as part of the project, while a new pool and pool house are constructed. He noted strong community interest in recent improvements, including the skate park, and expressed optimism that the new pool will open later this summer following testing and a formal grand opening.

C. Police Department

No Report.

D. Schools

No report.

E. Members at Large

Commissioners Georgeakopoulos and Hong from Buffalo Grove High School reported that they have upcoming finals, recently concluded Thanksgiving break, and will soon begin winter break. Commissioner Georgeakopoulos also shared that she recently completed a fall internship at AMI Bearings, a manufacturing company, where she participated in a business engineering internship.

Commissioner McQuade from Hersey High School reported that free hot chocolate was offered today through the Parents Association, which was a nice way to help students ease back into the week following the break. She noted that while finals are two weeks away and can be stressful, many classes are encouraging students to complete key work ahead of finals while also building skills needed for the second semester. She also shared that ROTC is going well, with the final night class of the semester scheduled for next Wednesday, which will include an awards ceremony. Commissioner McQuade remarked that it has been rewarding to see the semester come to a close and to reflect on how much students and staff have grown into their roles over the course of the term.

Additionally, she reported on the school's annual food drive, organized through second-period classes. Students could bag and tag donations, bring in canned goods, or contribute money toward gift cards. On the day of the drive, donations were brought to the cafeteria, sorted by type, and packed for distribution into U-Haul trucks. This year's food drive was a huge success, with over 30,000 cans collected. Ms. McQuade described the event as fun and engaging, highlighting the excitement of student participation, the collaborative effort of volunteers, and the impressive volume of donations.

Commissioner Smith from St. Viator reported that local news visited to cover their toy drive. He also shared that, with finals approaching, he has been spending more time at the library to prepare.

Commissioner Gala from Prospect High School reported that the school library received new furniture and that free hot chocolate was offered today. She also shared that a Fine Arts teacher was recognized as the National BUBBL'r Teacher of the Year. Additionally, she noted that she recently completed an internship at a doctor's office. Commissioner Gala reported that the school is currently hosting a sock drive, which has been turned into a friendly competition in which the counselor who collects the most socks will receive a pie in the face.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Teen Job Fair

Chair Son reported that four businesses have confirmed participation in the Teen Job Fair, which is a great start. The confirmed businesses are Frontier Library, NWS RAs, Northwest Special Recreation Association, and Rolling Meadows Park District, all returning participants. Some businesses required additional steps beyond handing out flyers; for example, Dick's Sporting Goods and Portillo's needed to go through corporate procedures, while Chick-fil-A approved participation directly. Members were encouraged to share any complicated outreach details with Chair Son for support and to provide contact information for businesses that confirm, so the assignment tracking sheet can be updated and avoid repeated requests.

Members were reminded to focus on finals first, with business outreach continuing during winter break or early January. Once a business says "yes," members should notify Chair Son, who can help manage more complex processes if needed. The library newsletter will include a call for businesses in January, which may attract additional participants. The Teen Job Fair will be held in the park as planned, and there was positive feedback that another library, the New Lenox Library, expressed interest in starting their own team after seeing this event. Members were advised to ask for the manager or person in charge when reaching out to businesses and to move on if a business declines. Overall, having four confirmed businesses at this stage is considered a strong start.

B. Lawn Mowing & Snow Shoveling Referral Program

Chair Son distributed the Snow Shoveling flyers for Commissioners to share at their respective schools. Ms. Tsagalis reported a record number of participants in the program this year, with 135 students and 390 individuals aged 60 and older or with qualifying special needs. The Commissioners discussed ways to improve guidance and communication for students participating in the program, suggesting the development of an FAQ or tip sheet for both students and homeowners to outline expectations, communication methods, and safety guidance. Topics included the most effective ways for students to be contacted, how to follow up if they are not immediately reached, and the information they should receive from homeowners, including address, time frames, and special instructions. Equipment questions were raised, including the availability and safe use of tools, with a recommendation to provide brief instructional resources, such as YouTube tutorials. Guidance on fair pricing and time expectations for shoveling, based on driveway size and snow depth, was also discussed. Senior Center Manager Ms. Colagrossi will continue emailing students and encouraging them to reach out for additional opportunities. Commissioners emphasized the importance of clear resources to ensure a smooth experience for both students and homeowners.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Phone Pals Program

Ms. Tsagalis introduced a proposed new program called "Phone Pals," designed to connect students with homebound or isolated seniors to address loneliness and promote mental health. The program, currently in the planning stages, would involve students engaging in regular phone conversations with seniors, providing social connection and support. Ms. Tsagalis explained that the program is modeled after traditional pen pals but conducted by phone and emphasized the importance of strong communication skills for participants. Students from the existing volunteer pool, as well as college-age volunteers, may be recruited, and the program will include orientation, guidelines, and criteria for participation.

The Commissioners discussed various program considerations, including matching students with seniors based on interests, availability, and gender preferences, as well as determining the frequency and length of calls. The program will provide guidance on mental health first aid, communication tips, and handling common questions from seniors. The initiative builds on previous intergenerational activities, such as the "Bridge Builders" summer program, and aims to enhance generational learning and community engagement. Volunteers will receive recognition for their service hours. Ms. Tsagalis encouraged Commissioners to provide feedback and ideas as planning continues, noting that further details and implementation plans will be shared in the coming months.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Announcements / Correspondence

Ms. Tsagalis provided an update on the E-bike ordinance, noting that it continues to be of interest. On November 17, an amendment to the E-bike law was passed, with the primary change addressing the age limit. Previously, the law set a hard minimum age of 16, but the amendment allows individuals under 16 to operate an E-bike if they complete a safety quiz developed by Ride Illinois. The quiz is educational, providing explanations for incorrect answers and offering multiple levels, with the silver level being the recommended benchmark. Ms. Tsagalis noted that Ride Illinois regularly updates high-quality educational

materials and is currently on version 2.0 of the quiz. She indicated that public information staff are preparing educational materials and that the quiz may be distributed to schools in the future, particularly in the spring when biking activity increases. An update on the program will be provided at the next meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hong, seconded by Commissioner McQuade, moved to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. all concurred and the motion carried unanimously.