



AGENDA
Senior Citizens Commission
Commissions Room
Arlington Heights Village Hall
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd., AH 60005
March 16, 2026
6:00 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. February 23, 2026, Minutes
- IV. REPORTS
 - A. Chair Report
 - B. Liaison Report
- V. OLD BUSINESS
- 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

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.

**Minutes
Village of Arlington Heights
Senior Citizens Commission
Commissions Room-33 S Arlington Heights Road, A.H. 60005
Commissions Sub-Committee
February 23, 2026
6 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Vogt began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present

Corinne Drew
Ellyn Zimmerman
Tim Carter
George Motto
Fred Vogt

Also Present

Tracey Colagrossi, Liaison
Mila Tsagalis, HHS Director
Donna Kunz
Albert Kunz

Absent

Sue Vicellei

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of January 23, 2026

CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2026. COMMISSIONER CARTER MADE A MOTION AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2026, WERE APPROVED.

IV. REPORTS

Chairperson

Chairperson Vogt had nothing to report.

Liaison Report

Facebook / Social Media Report (January 19 – February 15)

- Total Facebook followers: 570, up 6.8% from the prior month.
- The page reaches followers through Reels (short video), Feed posts, and direct page searches.
- Demographics data shared; the page has international viewers including users from the United Kingdom, Pakistan, and Cameroon.
- Engagement spiked around February 14 due to Hersey High School's Love Bus event.

- Year-over-year comparative data (January 2025 vs. January 2026) was provided. Video view metrics (1-second and 3-second views) were explained.
- Going forward, reports will be presented at each meeting. Members were invited to suggest additional metrics of interest.
- A quarterly survey of program attendees will be implemented to track how they learned about events (word of mouth, newsletter, Facebook, e-blast, etc.).

Action Plan Update

- The action plan has been updated to reflect completed items. Page number corrections noted: bottom corners should read pages 18 and 19.
- Staff member Trey Collins has been distributing printed newsletters to targeted locations (churches, Luther Village, Moorings, Church Creek, doctor's offices, etc.). Informational brochures will be added to this distribution.
- A new quarterly Live Well, Age Well newsletter is going out soon. Registration for March/April begins the following day.

Rebranding / Facility Update

- There may be funding available this year or next to support a Senior Center rebranding effort, which had been previously proposed but deferred due to budget constraints.
- A professional agency would conduct focus groups and surveys, drawing on data from NIU's Center for Governmental Studies and past survey results, to explore potential name changes, new logos, or updated community identity.
- The rebranding effort is intended to coincide with a planned facility remodeling project.
- The Frisbee Senior Center (now rebranded as the "Generation Center") was cited as a reference point; their remodel is expected to be complete by April and a visit was suggested.
- Discussion of whether renaming is necessary was lively; key themes included overcoming age-related stigma around the word "senior," attracting future demographics, and maintaining recognition among current users.
- The Communications Subcommittee will play a key role in the rebranding process.

Age-Friendly Community Messaging

- Discussion of how to better communicate the Village's Age-Friendly designation and what it means to residents.
- A PowerPoint presentation is being developed for the commission to review and use as a community outreach tool.
- The subcommittee will consider adding a communication action item to present Age-Friendly information at community venues such as Rotary clubs and churches, followed by listening sessions.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Health and Human Services Director, Mila Tsagalis, presented information on a new disability inclusion award program. Key points included:

- The award was previously focused solely on employers recognizing inclusivity in hiring. The program has been reimagined to be community wide.
- The new Disability Inclusion Award is open to individuals, organizations, businesses, and schools — recognizing any act of inclusivity or accessibility improvement.
- Nominees can be submitted throughout the year, not just at year-end. The commission will also recognize nominees on an ongoing basis, not only the final awardee.
- Five nominees have already been submitted, including an organization, an individual who started a community foundation, and a business.
- Director Tsagalis noted the award connects well with built-environment concerns such as brick paver sidewalks downtown, which can create safety hazards for people with mobility issues.
- Director Tsagalis requested the Communications Subcommittee assist in spreading the word. Postcards with QR codes linking to the nomination form were distributed.
- Outreach ideas discussed: District 214 schools (including Hersey High School), churches, senior centers, doctor's offices, and the Youth Commission.

Additional announcements:

- An updated Bartlett Pharmacy brochure (home immunizations) was shared.
- The new Refuse Groot brochure is now available.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Downtown Sidewalk Safety / Brick Pavers:

Resident Donna Kunz commented on the safety of brick paver sidewalks in downtown Arlington Heights, particularly for residents with mobility challenges. Points raised included:

- Brick pavers may be technically ADA compliant but present tripping hazards for those who shuffle, including many seniors.
- Stamped colored concrete was suggested as a cost-effective alternative that mimics the appearance of brick while providing a safer, more maintainable surface. (Precedent noted from Rolling Meadows.)
- Evanston and the Village of Arlington Heights have already begun replacing pavers in some areas as part of ongoing construction projects.
- The Metra train station platform was also mentioned as a location with suggestions from wheelchair users for improved accessibility.

It was suggested the commission formally weigh in on this issue. Director Tsagalis will contact the Director of Public Works for information on current maintenance practices, complaint history, and whether any further removal or modification of pavers is planned. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO ADJOURN.

**COMMISSIONER CARTER MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER DREW. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MEETING
CONCLUDED AT 6:57 PM.**