

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Vogt called the meeting to order at 7 PM. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Fred Vogt

Tim Carter

Corinne Drew

Steve Raminiak

Gary Wood

Ellyn Zimmerman

Fred Feldman

George Motto

Also Present: ☐

Tracey Colagrossi, Liaison

Mila Tsgalais, HHS Director

Albert Kunz

Donna Kunz

Keith Moens

Not Present:

Sharon Adams

Sue Vieceilli

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 26, 2026, Minutes

CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2026 BE ACCEPTED. COMMISSIONER CARTER MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FELDMAN. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2026, WERE ACCEPTED.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairpersons Report

No report

B. Liaison Report

- A staff workgroup is reviewing plans for a 2029 senior center remodel

- The center is pursuing a pilot "Vinyl and Vino" wine tasting and music listening event in April, requiring a special event liquor license
- Tax preparation appointments through the center's AARP Tax-Aide site are nearly fully booked

C. Non-for-Profit Corporation

The Senior Center Foundation report was provided, including funding approvals for new equipment and programming.

D. Senior Center Advisory Council

The Senior Center Advisory Council report covered upcoming cultural events and the annual Live Well, Age Well Expo.

E. Legislation

Commissioner Feldman is monitoring 15 or so revenue-related bills for senior citizens and real estate ownership; none of those bills have moved past the state. It's unlikely that any of them will be acted upon before the session ends. However, we did have one development of interest about two years ago. The commission has been very interested in the development of autonomous vehicles as a probable means of private transportation for able-bodied senior citizens who, for whatever reason, are unable to drive or don't have access to a private vehicle, unbeknownst to me, except by way of an announcement through the Chicago Metropolitan Area for Planning. There are now five bills pending in the Illinois General Assembly regarding autonomous vehicles. We have House Bill 4663, and its Senate counterpart is Senate Bill 3392, which establishes a three-year pilot project to determine the feasibility and implementation of allowing autonomous vehicles on Illinois roads. We also have House Bill 4789, the counterpoint of Senate Bill 3308, which will establish rules and regulations for eligibility and participation in that pilot project. Finally, we have House Bill 4789, which establishes requirements for the operation of autonomous vehicles on public roads for testing purposes.

Unrelated to seniors' interests, there's also a bill pending in the House, House Bill 4333, which would reduce the presumed intoxication standard for driving from 0.08 to 0.05. That was just recently introduced in Minnesota. For a committee assignment, it's in the rules.

Governor Pritzker was interviewed, and the subject of Granny Flats came up, with the governor trying to put forth legislation that would ease restrictions. And what he proposed was legislation that would take away local municipalities' zoning power and would require the loss of zoned residential areas with an area of less than 2,500 square feet. He would also provide criteria for establishing accessory buildings, granny flats, two flats, and other small, isolated accessory-type housing units, which are to be considered as part of the affordable housing criteria.

F. Age-Friendly Community Certification

Commissioner Motto will present the Age Friendly designation plaque at the, to the board on March 2.

1. Transportation/Affordable Housing Report

Commissioner Feldman reported on a \$180,000 grant from Cook County PACE, expressly to address and improve service in the Arlington Heights and Rolling Meadows OnDemand service areas. Pace has initiated a program to expand the Arlington Heights Rolling Meadows on -demand service area, almost doubling its size. Its former boundaries were Arlington Heights Road, Euclid Avenue, Route 53, and Central Road. The new boundaries will be Palatine Road, Quentin Road, Algonquin Road, and Arlington Heights Road. This will allow direct connections or direct service to Harper College, the Palatine Metro Station, the Palatine Library, and Fremd High School. In addition, they're extending the service hours by an hour and a half, so that service will now be rendered on demand in that area. between six in the morning and eight in the evening. It's now called the Northwest Cook on - demand service area.

Not much to report on housing. As you know, we have been continuing to push our proposal to siphon off a bit of the trust fund to a separate fund for seniors in their homes who need it. But there was one meeting that both Fred and I missed because Fred and my mother were in the hospital. And then the meeting that followed was canceled.

2. Communications

The Liaison provided a report on Facebook, in terms of our communications goals and objectives for this year, things that are completed, things that we are working on. One of them, as she reported, was to provide printed flyers and program calendars to local clinics and township offices that serve lower income residents.

G. Kenneth Hood Award

Commissioners Feldman, Wood, and Vogt would like to set up an Award committee meeting for late February. The liaison will coordinate.

H. Intergenerational Outreach

Commissioner Zimmerman reported Girl Scout was interested in working at the senior center to potentially earn her gold award, and indeed, she is pursuing a project and connecting with other volunteers for a SACOP.

Another Girl Scout group is partnering, and they are going to bring a planetarium to the senior center.

We have an Eagle Scout who visited the center and is hoping to start an Eagle Scout project there. Hersey High School continues to give a hand with their Service Over Self. activities, making blankets, and donating them. Handing out Valentine's Day goodie bags is always well-received. There was also a meeting with educators from District 211 and their independent living program, and consideration is being given to having additional students come into the senior center to do some of these activities. These would be for their transitional students and job coaches who volunteer.

There are also additional student volunteers available evenings and weekends at the nurses' Lending Closet.

We have more student volunteers coming in, and here is some feedback we received from one. She acted as an art class assistant last summer. She included in her college entry essay what Commissioner Zimmerman read.

"I've done a lot of volunteer work throughout my high school career, which I plan to continue in college and beyond. The experience that influenced me most so far was volunteering at my local senior center this past summer. I served as a teacher's assistant in many of their art classes. The seniors were so fun to be around. And I felt so happy just befriending them. They were all so kind and genuine and loved to learn. I felt overjoyed to be able to actually teach others and give one-on-one tips for their artwork. They respected me despite my age, and they appreciated my expertise and ideas. It was such a fun environment, and I can see myself working in a similar setting in the future."

The student was accepted to DePaul University, where she will be working in the arts.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Director Tsagalis presented on the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities new award to recognize people being inclusive and welcoming in the Village of Arlington Heights. Nominations are being accepted now through August 31.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

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

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO ADJORN.
COMMISSIONER CARTER MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER FELDMAN. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 7:43 PM.**