

Senior Citizens Commission

Housing & Transportation Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date Friday, February 20 at 12:30 PM

1655 N Arlington Heights Road, Suite 302E, Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Members Present

George Motto, Steve Raminiak, Fred Feldman, Tracey Colagrossi (staff liaison)

Absent: Fred Vogt

Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

Roll call was taken. A quorum was confirmed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of October 17, 2025. All members voted in favor. The minutes were approved.

Legislation & Transportation Report (Fred Feldman)

DUI Blood Alcohol Threshold Bill

- House Bill 4333 has been introduced in the General Assembly to reduce the presumed intoxication standard for driving from 0.08 to 0.05 BAC. The bill has been assigned to committee but has not advanced further.
- Members noted that stronger enforcement and penalties may be more effective than lowering the threshold alone.

Autonomous Vehicle Legislation

- Representative Cam Buckner (Chicago) introduced House Bill 4663, which would create a three-year feasibility study for allowing autonomous vehicles to operate on Illinois roads. The bill was introduced February 3 and has been assigned to the Rules Committee for assignment.
- Fred Feldman noted personal interest in autonomous vehicles as a future transportation option for seniors who can no longer drive or prefer not to. Concerns remain around safety incidents (stop sign violations, school bus stop-arm violations, entry into crime scenes).
- Additional autonomous vehicle bills pending in the General Assembly were referenced (see Regular Meeting minutes for full detail).

Northern Illinois Transit Authority Act / Pace Funding

- The Northern Illinois Transportation Authority Act has passed. A fund of approximately \$1.5 billion has been established for use over three years, benefiting Pace, Metra, and CTA. These agencies now operate under the unified authority.
- Funds have also been allocated for improvements around train station areas.
- Cook County has awarded Pace a \$180,000 grant specifically for the Arlington Heights/Rolling Meadows on-demand service area. The grant will fund a dedicated additional bus and driver for the area, and an expansion of the service boundary

(currently limited to south of Euclid Avenue — the northern half of Arlington Heights is not currently served).

- A ribbon-cutting event is scheduled for March 5 at Rolling Meadows Village Hall to mark the launch of the expanded service. Tracy will resend event details to the group.

Affordable Housing Report (Steve Raminiak & Fred Feldman)

Housing Commission Meeting Update

- The most recent Housing Commission meeting was canceled. Both Steve Raminiak and Fred Feldman had planned to attend but were unavailable due to family medical situations.
- The subcommittee's proposal (a dedicated fund from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to assist seniors aging in place) was not on the canceled meeting's agenda. The group will continue to advance this proposal at the next available Housing Commission meeting, expected in March or April.
- Tracy/Mila will confirm the next Housing Commission meeting date.

Governor Pritzker's Affordable Housing Proposal

- In his State of the State address, Governor Pritzker proposed legislation to significantly limit local government zoning authority over residentially zoned properties, allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) — including granny flats, backyard cottages, and above-garage apartments — on all residential parcels.
- The proposal also includes a \$250 million combined grant for site preparation, middle housing development, and first-time buyer assistance.
- This remains a proposal requiring legislative action. Fred Feldman will monitor for any bills introduced. Members noted mixed views on removing local zoning authority.

Housing Commission Observation

- Fred Feldman and Steve Raminiak have attended Housing Commission meetings as observers. They noted the commission has developed a strong application process for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, iterating from a first draft to an improved second iteration with input from observers including subcommittee members.
- A member noted that an outside housing affordability seminar (sponsored by Joining Forces) highlighted that the most effective path to housing affordability is not primarily through subsidies but through policies that attract experienced, market-rate developers willing to build middle housing. Members discussed the value of fostering an environment where developers see Arlington Heights and the Northwest suburbs as a desirable market.
- The Senior Citizens Commission's ongoing presence at Housing Commission meetings has been noted and is seen as valuable in keeping senior housing needs visible.

Role of the Subcommittee — Discussion

Members engaged in a substantive discussion about the appropriate scope and approach for the subcommittee going forward. Key themes:

- The subcommittee's role is advisory and educational — advocacy that crosses into policy direction is outside its mandate per Village guidelines.
- Steve Raminiak suggested a key focus should be informing and educating about housing subsidies and exploring what subsidy options exist for lower-income seniors.

- George Motto raised the tension between the Senior Citizens Commission's advisory role and the broader Age-Friendly Community mission, which calls for reducing barriers and improving quality of life across all age groups. He suggested the Age-Friendly plaque presentation (March 2) is an opportunity to reaffirm that mission.
- Members agreed the subcommittee is most effective at the local level (zoning and housing policy are local issues) and that working through education, relationship-building, and visible presence is the right approach.

Action Plan Review

Affordable Housing Action Plan (2025–2027)

- Goal 1A — Assess the need for affordable housing through surveys and workshops: Marked complete (survey completed August 2025).
- Goal 1B — Attend Housing Commission meetings: Ongoing, no change.
- Goal 2 — Conduct focus groups and surveys to identify barriers: The AARP Age-Friendly survey (2024) is considered to fulfill the data collection component. A qualitative focus group (resident stories and narratives on aging in place) will be added, targeting September 2026. The Commission's newsletter (Commissioner Corner) can be used to advertise and recruit participants.
- Goal 3 — Provide community education and resources: Language to be rewritten as 'provide education and resources for the community.' An annual housing forum/expo (similar to the prior forum which was well attended) was proposed and supported. Ongoing resources on the Senior Center website connecting residents to entities like Center of Concern and Northwest Housing Partnership were also discussed. Target: ongoing/annual.
- Goal 3C — Engage with regional and state agencies: Deemed too broad and not currently actionable at the commission level. To be revised or removed.
- Goal 4A — Provide recommendations to the Village Board: Marked complete (report submitted).
- Goal 4B — Integrate the Age-Friendly message into village and regional government: A presentation/slide deck on the Age-Friendly designation will be developed for use at other commissions, community organizations, and government bodies. This will be brought to the full Commission for review before use.

Transportation Action Plan

- Goal A — Assess transportation needs through survey: Considered complete via prior Age-Friendly survey.
- Goal B — Host listening sessions: Not yet completed. Target revised to August 2026.
- Goal — Map current service gaps: An overlay map was previously created. The subcommittee will revisit and update after the March 5 Pace ribbon-cutting event and expansion details are confirmed.
- Goal — Educate residents on existing transportation options: Target December 2026, no change.
- Goal — Update and distribute transportation resource guides: Largely complete; guides have been translated. Short how-to videos demonstrating transportation options will be developed in 2027, potentially with student assistance.

- Goal — Meet with RTA, Pace, townships, and Metra to present survey/listening session findings: Revised target to May 2027, pending completion of listening sessions.
- Goal — Join regional coalitions on transportation funding: Revised target to May 2027.
- Goal — Prepare and deliver a report to the Village Board on transportation needs: Target September 2026, no change.
- Goal — Seek grant opportunities for transportation initiatives: Considered beyond the scope of the subcommittee at this time (staff-level function). To be revised or removed.

Township Relationships

- Mila has been meeting with surrounding townships to explore collaboration and cross-promotion of resources. She met with Elk Grove Township this week; relationships with Wheeling Township are also being developed under a new board (the prior board had taken the position that their services were voluntary and fixed).
- A prior meeting with township representatives was rescheduled due to Tracy's illness; Mila attended in her place. Relationships with both townships are described as improving.
- A mental health board grant was received to support a caregiver support group — cited as an example of successful collaboration with townships.

Upcoming Items & Reminders

- Age-Friendly Plaque Presentation: Monday, March 2 at 7:30 PM at Village Hall (Village Board meeting). Commissioner George Motto will lead the presentation. All subcommittee members are welcome to attend. Tracy will send a reminder.
- Pace Ribbon-Cutting Event: March 5, morning, at Rolling Meadows Village Hall. Tracy will resend details.
- Regular Senior Citizens Commission Meeting: Monday, February 23 at 7:00 PM. Communications Subcommittee meets at 6:00 PM prior.
- Updated action plan copies with revised dates will be prepared and distributed by Tracy.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary's Signature

Date