

# FINAL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARLINGTON ECONOMIC ALLIANCE HELD ON March 18, 2026 AT 7:30 A.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Andrew Stengren – Chairman  
Marc Poulos  
Tony Guido  
Terry Iverson  
Michael Mulder  
Brian Roginski  
Andi Ruhl

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kerri Oots  
John Toliopoulos  
Tonia Etoh  
Heather Larson

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Kim Biederman – Economic Development Manager

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Mike Driskell, Arlington Heights Memorial Library  
Keith Moens, Resident

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### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andrew Stengren called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 19, 2025**

The meeting minutes of November 19, 2025 Arlington Economic Alliance meeting were reviewed.

**MR. MULDER MOVED AND MR. POULOS SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT NOVEMBER 19, 2025 ARLINGTON ECONOMIC ALLIANCE MEETING MINUTES. ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.**

### **IV. PRESENTATION**

Arlington Heights Memorial Library representative Diane Malik, Business Services Advisor, gave an informative presentation highlighting the wide range of business services and resources available to local businesses and nonprofit organizations. The presentation showcased how the library supports the business community through research tools, professional development resources, networking opportunities, technology access, and educational programming designed to help organizations grow and succeed.

### **V. REPORTS**

Ms. Biederman updated the commissioners on the following:

#### **A. Development Update**

The Vail Promenade project was discussed, including the recent open house that provided residents with an opportunity to learn more about the proposed development, review project renderings, site plans, and share feedback directly with the project team. The open house

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served as an important community engagement opportunity, allowing residents to ask questions, voice comments and concerns, and gain a better understanding of the vision, timeline, and potential impact of the project. Feedback gathered during the event will help inform the ongoing planning and development process as the project continues to move forward.

## **B. Arlington Alfresco Update**

Agreements have been distributed to businesses participating in the Alfresco program, including those located within the designated Alfresco area as well as businesses participating outside of the zone. New this year, businesses are able to upload all required documents directly through the online portal, creating a more streamlined and efficient process by keeping everything in one convenient location. The Alfresco program will run from Friday, May 1 through September 29.

## **C. State of the Village Update**

The committee was very pleased with the turnout for the event, noting that it was the highest attendance the event has seen to date. Chairman Stengren mentioned that he would like to see the event recorded next year to allow for broader access and future reference.

Ms. Ruhl shared that she would like to see a greater emphasis on economic development incorporated into future presentations. She noted that additional discussion should focus on supporting and growing businesses in Arlington Heights, as well as strategies for attracting new businesses and investment to the Village, particularly prior to discussions related to the Bears project.

Mr. Poulos expressed interest in creating more of a town hall-style atmosphere for future events, with increased dialogue surrounding new development opportunities, incoming developers, and the role the Economic Alliance can play in supporting economic growth and community engagement. He also mentioned interest in hosting another breakfast event or potentially developing an ongoing series of similar discussions throughout the year.

Additionally, Ms. Ruhl shared that if the Bears project were to move forward, she would like to see an arts center or similar cultural component incorporated into the development as a community amenity.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Manufacturing Trade Show**

Mr. Iverson presented a proposal to sponsor a career-discovery trip to the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS) in downtown Chicago, scheduled for September 14–19, 2026. Recognizing that parents play a critical role in shaping their children’s career paths, and often hold outdated perceptions of advanced manufacturing. The initiative aims to engage both District 214 students and their parents. To facilitate active dialogue, participants would receive a copy of the dual-edition book, *Inspiring Champions in Advanced Manufacturing*. This initiative represents a powerful collaboration between local government, education, and industry to cultivate the next generation of the skilled workforce.

Preliminary discussions have yielded strong support from School District 214 and the Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT). The total projected cost for the initiative ranges from a minimum of \$1,700 to a maximum budget of \$4,450. During the review, the committee noted that a standard liability waiver would need to be implemented for participating attendees.

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A motion was made by Mr. Poulos and seconded by Mr. Roginski to approve the project concept and authorize the use of up to \$3,000 from the budget to fund this proposal. On a voice vote the Alliance members all voted in favor of the motion.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Review and Adoption Open Meetings Act and Rules**

Committee reviewed and adopted the Open Meetings Act and Rules.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Stengren informed the committee that he will be stepping down from his position and the committee. Reflecting on his tenure, he expressed that serving on the committee for the past seven years, including five years as Chairman. He thanked the other committee members, and shared that it has been an absolute joy.

The committee and the Village of Arlington Heights extended their deepest gratitude to Chairman Stengren for his seven years of dedicated volunteer service, outstanding leadership, and steadfast commitment to the community. He leaves behind a legacy of meaningful impact, and his contributions will be greatly missed.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Keith Moens suggested that public comments be permitted prior to a formal motion being made, allowing the committee the opportunity to hear and consider community input before a vote is taken. The committee reviewed the suggestion and indicated that adapting the meeting structure to accommodate this practice is something they could do moving forward.

### **Adjournment**

**MS. RUHL MOVED AND MR. POULOS SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 AM.

Andrew Stengren, Chair  
Arlington Economic Alliance

*Prepared by Department of Planning & Community Development*