

Minutes
Village of Arlington Heights
Senior Citizens Commission
Commissions Room-33 S Arlington Heights Road, A.H. 60005
May 18, 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:

Sharon Adams

Corinne Drew

Gary Wood

Ellyn Zimmerman

Fred Feldman

Fred Vogt, Chair

George Motto

Steve Raminiak

Sue Viecegli

Tim Carter

Also Present: ☐

Tracey Colagrossi, Liaison

Not Present:

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 13, 2026, Minutes

CHAIRPERSON VOGT REQUESTED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2026, BE ACCEPTED. COMMISSIONER RAMINIAK MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOTTO. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2026, WERE ACCEPTED. COMMISSIONER CARTER ABSTAINED.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairpersons Report

The Chairperson reported:

- The grand opening/open house for the Gateway development at Algonquin and Arlington Heights Roads would occur on May 20, 2026. Commissioners noted the inclusion of affordable housing units within the development.
- Commissioners discussed concerns regarding limited on-street accessible parking in the downtown area. It was suggested that Village ADA Coordinator Hannah Kane be contacted to provide information regarding requirements and accessibility standards.
- Commissioners reviewed discussion from the April 15 Housing Commission meeting regarding the proposed affordable housing assistance concept presented by members of the Senior Citizens Commission.

Commissioners Steve Raminiak and Fred Vogt reported:

- The Housing Commission expressed support for the affordable housing concept.
- Discussion focused on implementation concerns including sustainability, administration, staffing capacity, program qualifications, and long-term funding.
- A Glenview housing assistance program was identified as a potential model for future consideration.
- Commissioners agreed to continue monitoring the issue pending official Housing Commission meeting minutes and the Village housing study process.

The Commission further discussed:

- The importance of maintaining advocacy efforts for affordable housing.
- The Village's plans to conduct a comprehensive housing needs assessment and long-term housing plan.
- Historic advocacy efforts by the Senior Citizens Commission related to affordable housing over the past 30 years.

B. Liaison Report

Programs and Events

- The "Vinyl & Vino" event was successful with approximately 30 attendees and a waitlist.
- A Bingo Happy Hour collaboration with the Park District is planned for August 2026.
- Long-term discussions continue regarding ordinance changes allowing limited alcohol service at select Senior Center events.
- Planning continues regarding Senior Center modernization, renovation, or relocation options, including contingency planning for temporary operations during any construction period.
- National Senior Health and Fitness Day will be held on May 27, 2026.
- Healthy Brain Initiative
- Staff attended Dementia Risk Reduction/Healthy Brain Initiative training through the Alzheimer's Association. Upcoming work will focus on:
 - Community partnerships
 - Data analysis related to health indicators
 - Long-term healthy brain and dementia risk reduction initiatives
 - Staff and Volunteer Safety Training
 - Staff and volunteers will participate in:
 - NARCAN administration training
 - Stop the Bleed training scheduled for August 18, 2026.
- Senior Center Anniversary
- Planning continues for the Senior Center's upcoming 30th anniversary celebration in 2027.

CHAIRPERSON VOGT EXCUSED HIMSELF FROM THE MEETING TO PROMOTE THE KENNETH HOOD AWARD AT THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING. COMMISSIONER VIECELLI STEPPED INTO THE CHAIR ROLE DURING MR. VOGT'S ABSENCE.

C. Non-for-Profit Corporation

The Arlington Heights Senior Center, Inc. Foundation reported:

- An Antique Car Show is scheduled for August 22, 2026.
- A Pickleball Fundraiser is scheduled for September 19, 2026.
- Vendor recruitment continues for the June 18, 2026, Live Well, Age Well Expo.

D. Senior Center Advisory Council

The Advisory Council Report included:

- The June 12 Hot Dog Cookout is sold out with a waitlist.
- Planning is underway for the annual Ice Cream Social in August.

E. Legislation

Commissioner Feldman provided legislative updates including:

- Senate Bill 1911 regarding Affordable Housing Special Assessment Programs passed and provides property tax incentives for affordable housing improvements maintained for 10 years.
- Several transportation and autonomous vehicle-related bills remain stalled in committee.
- Discussion continues in Springfield regarding statewide infrastructure and Build Illinois legislation.

F. Age-Friendly Community Certification

1. Transportation/Affordable Housing Report

The Commission reiterated its interest in downtown accessible parking and agreed to continue monitoring transportation-related legislation and local accessibility concerns.

2. Communications

The Commission reviewed updates to the Communications and Marketing Plans.

Highlights included:

- Facebook followers increased to approximately 770.
- Facebook interactions increased by 34%.
- Views increased by 12%.
- Staff and commissioners presented the Age-Friendly Action Plan to the Board of Health in April 2026.
- Topics discussed with the Board of Health included accessibility, e-bike safety, drug use, gambling concerns, THC usage, and handicap parking.
- Staff will present to the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities on June 9, 2026.

G. Kenneth Hood Award

- The Kenneth Hood Award Committee reported:
- One nomination has been received to date.
- Committee members are conducting outreach calls to encourage additional nominations.
- Efforts continue to clarify that nominees may be of any age as long as their volunteer efforts benefit older adults in Arlington Heights.

H. Intergenerational Outreach

Commissioner Drew reported:

- The Commission received an update regarding the Hersey High School intergenerational partnership program, including:
- A graduation recognition event attended by approximately 65 guests.
- Student recognition activities and presentations.
- Distribution of commemorative “pocket hugs” to participating students.
- Commissioners discussed conducting an annual review of intergenerational programming later this summer

CHAIRPERSON VOGT RETURNED TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION AFTER REPORTING TO THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING ABOUT THE KENNETH HOOD AWARD.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed promoting substitute teaching opportunities to older adults and retirees within the community.

Discussion included:

- School districts’ need for substitute teachers.
- Minimal certification requirements for substitute teaching.
- Sharing substitute teaching information through Senior Center e-blasts and newsletters.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

IN CHAIRPERSON VOGT'S REQUESTED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COMMISSIONER DREW MADE A MOTION AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WOOD. ALL WERE IN FAVOR AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:01 PM.