

**APPROVED MINUTES
MEETING OF THE AGING IN COMMUNITIES COMMISSION
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 124
April 15, 2025 - 6:00pm**

The April 15, 2025 meeting of the Aging in Communities Commission was called to order at 6:12 pm by Chair Blesoff.

PRESENT: Chair Marc Blesoff and Commissioners Cimaglio, Clay, Robinson, Spight

ABSENT: Commissioner Bailey

STAFF PRESENT: Cassandra L Adediran

GUEST PRESENT: Melissa Avila, Linda Frances

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

Roll Call:

Marc Blesoff	Present
Barbara Cimaglio	Present
Monika Robinson	Present
George Bailey	Absent
Evelyn Clay	Present
Carl Spight	Present

It was noted by the Chair that this evening’s meeting is the last meeting for Commissioner Cimaglio. Commissioner Cimaglio thanked everyone and offered words of encouragement for the AIC to continue with the good work.

Agenda Approval – Motion to approve the agenda was made by Comm. Clay and seconded by Com. Robinson. All were in favor.

Minutes Approval – Motion to approved minutes from February 13, 2025 meeting was made by Comm. Cimaglio and seconded by Comm Robinson. The minutes from the March 13, 2025 meeting was tabled pending review by all Commissioners. A correction will be made to show Comm. Clay as present during the March 13, 2025 meeting.

Non-Agenda Public Comment – None submitted to the Village. One in-person comment from Sylvia Schweri of Bike Walk Oak Park. Sylvia Schweri spoke about the need for more bike lanes in Village of Oak Park. They have received push back on a lane on Harvard. The organization is seeking more community input in support of the project. Sylvia fielded questions about access to the written plan for distribution to and review by the Commission as well as enforcement of the plan. Per Sylvia, the enforcement of the plan is referenced in the Vision Zero Plan. Chair Blesoff offered to have Sylvia or other spokesperson for Bike Walk Oak Park to come back to another meeting once the Commission has reviewed the

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plan. It was also mentioned that the Village wants to have a standard pedestrian signal which is also referenced in the Vision Zero Plan.

Old Business:

Mural Project

Comm. Bailey has spoken with Oak Park Area Arts Council (OPAAC) Director Camille Wilson-White about another location for the mural which is closer to the original spot at a reduced cost. Per Comm. Cimaglio, nothing has been developed as she has tried communicating with OPAAC who is responsible for putting out the RFP for the project. Comm. Cimaglio believed that there should be more involvement from all partners. Comm. Clay commented that the hang-up is the funding which Comm Cimaglio informed the commission that OPAAC has not given a dollar amount as of yet. It was suggested that the commission needs to facilitate getting community members to participate. Comm Robinson related that the weather is good now so the mural needs to be done by the Fall yet there needs to be a determination [on the mural project] by June with a look at alternate funding sources. The commission agreed that the mural, if it happens, can be tied to a few other activities. At this time, the commission is still waiting [on a status].

Day In Our Village

The AIC Commissioners agreed to participate in the Day In Our Village Festival. Ideas for activities included handing out a one-pager with specifics about the activities of the commission; face painting as a draw-in; and giveaways such as buttons, swag, straw covers, straw hats, etc.; promotion of Ageism Awareness Day. Staff will register or submit the AIC for attendance at the Day In Our Village Festival.

Ageism Awareness Day

Ageism Awareness Day will be held in October, the funds are budgeted. Chair Blesoff suggested that he will speak with the Trustees as well as present Ageism at the quarterly Chairperson's meeting.

Dementia Friendly

Commissioners Robinson and Cimaglio presented additional insight on the Village of Oak Park's status with Dementia Friendly initiative. Prior to COVID, Oak Park had become an official Dementia Friendly town. Now it is time for awareness and training to specific sectors of the community but the questions are who will do the training and how will community engagement be conducted? Is there a cost for the training? Is there a Village ordinance? Is it voluntary? In the past, there were some agreements for the Police Dept to receive training as well as some community businesses. There was an intern who actually did the work and Comm. Robinson is still in touch with the intern and can ask that person to come out and expound. Chair Blesoff offered to reach out to Village staff to see if the Dementia Friendly

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project can be resurrected and put to the Commission if there is a commissioner who may want to take up the issue and run with it and work with the new Trustee Liaison on the matter. It was acknowledged that there is much work to do and at some point, touching base with River Forest to see how they are doing with the Dementia Friendly work is an idea.

New Business:

Ageism Is a Public Health Issue

Chair Blesoff has Ageism Is a Public Health Issue on the agenda because of the importance of getting the message across to the community leaders.

Review of Becca Levy Project

Comm. Robison gave a brief review of the Becca Levy Project including the roll out month of December, the control group, how the project interacts with the activities of the Commission, Becca Levy's possible visit to Oak Park, the staff which is needed for the project; and the disposition of the outcome of the project, meaning that the results will remain with the VOP Community.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn to was made by Commissioner Cimaglio and seconded by Commissioner Robinson. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:27p.m.