

**APPROVED MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE AGING IN COMMUNITIES COMMISSION  
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 124  
March 13, 2025  
6:00pm**

The March 13, 2025 meeting of the Aging in Communities Commission was called to order at 6:07 pm by Chair Blesoff.

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

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Cassandra L Adediran

**GUEST PRESENT:** Melissa Avila

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** None

**Roll Call:**

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

**Agenda Approval** – Prior to agenda approval, Commissioner Cimaglio expressed that Dementia Friendly (DF) is not on the agenda and since Commissioner Robinson had just received the DF information, discussions will be held off until Commissioner Robinson goes through it. The commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

**Minutes Approval** – Chair Blesoff will hold off on approving the minutes for the February 13, 2025 meeting until the next meeting.

**Non-Agenda Public Comment** – None

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**Old Business:**

**Mural Project**

Commissioner Bailey related that a Village Trustee mentioned the mural project in another setting and that the Schuler Family is a candidate to be a donor for the mural project. The Commission is asked to present their amount pursuant to seeking the proposal. The Trustee has also requested to see a copy of the proposal as well. Commissioner Cimaglio informed the Commission that she has tried to communicate with Camille Wilson-White of the Oak Park Area Arts Council (OPAAC) regarding the posting of the RFP, which has not been done. The OPAAC was supposed to work with the AIC and they have not said how much money the AIC will get, hence the search for funds from another donor. Staff offered to assist with reaching out to Camille Wilson-White and OPAAC to ask her to contact Commissioners Bailey and Cimaglio about the mural process. As it stands, the Commission needs to (1) get the RFP posted by OPAAC; (2) find out how much OPAAC will contribute in support; and (3) confirm the location. Per Commissioner Bailey, the Township [building] has been identified as the location but it is not confirmed in writing.

**New Business:**

Per Chair Blesoff initially he had Enabling Language as part of New Business as he was wanting to see if there was an age requirement to become a Commissioner on the AIC Commission since there is a vacancy on the Commission. He related that the website needs to be more accurate to reflect the changes that were made a year and a half ago. He further reflected that while there is no age requirement, a majority of the commission [members] needs to be over the age of 55. However, they allowed room for commissioners to be any age. This correlates with the “intergenerational” conversations which are being had. The enabling language does not need to be addressed as it was updated per the changes. The description of the AIC is out of sync with the enabling language, which will be corrected eventually. The application process for getting on the commission is done online.

**Ageism Awareness Day 2025**

Ageism Awareness Day is in October and it is already March. There are other events coming up such as Day In Our Village but it will be discussed next meeting. In the meanwhile, monies are budgeted to bring in a speaker for Ageism Awareness Day. Chair Blesoff recommended Dr. Becka Levy to come to speak, similar to last year when Ashley Applewhite was the speaker. Chair Blesoff also mentioned that because of the other things happening in the Village, the AIC could probably put forth more energy into Ageism Awareness Day. To further show the need for Ageism to be recognized as a public health issue, Chair Blesoff mentioned the Village’s ECHO program. Staff explained the purpose of the ECHO program as a resource to diffuse and de-escalate as well as provide a link to services in crisis situations.

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Chair Blesoff encouraged the commissioners of the AIC to become adamant about encouraging the community to take up the issue of Ageism as a public health issue.

Commissioner Bailey commented that a lot of elderly people will have a difficult time grasping the “what-ifs” of the changes in Senior benefits and their options and then asked if the issue can be addressed in the current work plan. He also mentioned that baby boomers have resources and/or access to resources but will the actions of the federal government change things. Per Commissioner Cimaglio, because there is a lot of information being put out and people are hearing things, the AIC can be helpful if they have good concrete information [to provide] on Ageism Awareness Day to help people understand. Chair Blesoff provided some demographic information on the population over the age of 60 and how it is projected to increase by year 2050, which will be continue to pose challenges.

Commissioner Robinson provided a real-life example of how the Senior Services in Oak Park does help seniors connect with proper resources. She also related that she is not clear on what the ECHO program in the NHS does and wants to know if staff can come speak. Chair Blesoff mentioned that Jonathan Burch has come to the meeting on the heels of the Heritage House issue. The Village of Oak Park is not unaware and things are on the radar. Staff inserted that VOP Departments, as well as other entities such as Senior Services, are able to come to commission meetings to give information and that the AIC can request their presence. Discussion continued briefly around the connection between the AIC and OP Township Senior Services and how working together, they benefit the community even more. Commissioner Cimaglio asked how can information about Senior Services be presented on Ageism Awareness Day and if Liaison Trustee Straw can attend an AIC meeting. Chair Blesoff also asked for clarity on who the Staff Liaison will be since there have been staff changes at the Village Hall. Chair Blesoff mentioned that Commissioner Cimaglio’s term is expiring as well.

Chair Blesoff’s final remarks: the minutes for the 2/13/2025 and 3/13/2025 meetings will be approved at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn to was made by Commissioner Cimaglio and seconded by Commissioner Clay. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:56p.m.