

APPROVED MINUTES
MEETING OF THE AGING IN COMMUNITIES COMMISSION
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 124
May 8, 2025 - 6:00pm

The May 8, 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, Clay, Robinson, Spight

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Cassandra L Adediran

GUEST PRESENT: Male VOP resident observer, Gary Arnold – Disability Access Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT: Gary Arnold was in attendance due to his interest in the Bike Plan as he thought that Bike Walk OP organization rep was on site. He wants to see how to get more interest for the Disability Access Commission with the Bike/Walk program, hear more on Ageism, and collaborate with the Aging in Communities Commission

Roll Call:

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

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 March 13, 2025 meeting was made by Comm. Clay and seconded by Comm Robinson. All in favor. Motion to approved minutes from April 15, 2025 meeting was made by Comm. Robinson and seconded by Comm Spight. All in favor.

Non-Agenda Public Comment – None submitted to the Village.

Old Business:

Intergenerational Mural – Chair Blesoff and the commission expressed their appreciation for former Comm. Cimaglio's work and contributions. Chair Blesoff was able to speak with Oak Park Area Arts Council Director Wilson-White after speaking with Trustee Liaison Straw. Questions about the location of the mural being approved by the Township and follow-up

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with Dir. Wilson-White were addressed.

Day In Our Village

The AIC Commissioners agreed to participate in the Day In Our Village Festival on two-hour shifts. Comm. Clay will not be available but will assist with preparing the commission for the event. The Commission will hand out a one-pager, have face painting as an activity, and wear t-shirts for the AIC. Staff will check the AIC supplies. Staff registered the AIC for the Day In Our Village festival during the meeting.

Ageism Awareness Day

Chair Blesoff asked the commission if there was interest in repeating having a speaker such as last year. This year, Becca Levy may be able to speak. No one opposed the suggestions.

New Business:

Ageism Is a Public Health Issue

Chair Blesoff related that he has spoken with Trustee Straw who has reached out to other Trustees and Village Manager's Office. Chair Blesoff also informed the commission that he met with a person who wishes to be on the commission. He and staff Kira Tchang met and talked about the AIC advising the Board and staff about Ageism as a public health issue. The Department of Health is developing its 5-year plan and now is the time to include this topic in the Department of Health's plan. Comm Bailey expressed concern about the quality of service for seniors. Chair Blesoff offered that seniors, as residents, are being serviced by the Village of Oak Park every day.

Commission Webpage Inaccuracy

Chair Blesoff informed the commission members that the issue of the inaccurate information has been resolved without legislative actions. The language was corrected on the website by the Village Clerk's office.

CoGen Discussion: Chair Blesoff explained that the Co-Gen as intergenerational cooperation and projects. The task is to advise the Village Board on the aspects of aging in the community. Next month, the commission can talk about CoGen. Other commissions have been asked to take a look. There is opportunity for cooperation between Aging in Communities and the Disability Access Commissions. It is also a fit with the mural project.

Comm Bailey and Chair Blesoff briefly discussed people stopping by the AIC's booth at the Day In Our Village event and how the AIC would respond to questions. Chair Blesoff added that the handout include verbiage which will invite people to come to the booth. There was continued discussion about unconscious bias and how people of all ages, especially seniors are getting lost navigating through the societal systems in order to get services. Comm

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Robinson asked if Senior Services Dir. Pamela Mahn should come speak at an AIC commission meeting about how needs of seniors are being captured and how they fill the gap. Comm. Robinson agreed to make the request to Dir. Mahn.

Comm Clay asked about the Senior Appreciation Day where seniors are celebrated. Per Comm Robinson that was not lead by the Village or Township but it is coming up this year. The organization who puts it on is the Senior Citizens Center of Oak Park.

Comm Clay also mentioned the hopelessness of seniors for inclusivity as there are limited activities for them. There is isolation. There should be something for everyone. For clarity, Comm Bailey commented that activities are available at the Oak Park Arms such as the senior prom but he does not know how well isolation and hopelessness of seniors is addressed. Comm Robinson gave history on the previous good neighbor program that matched seniors with other people to alleviate loneliness. Currently a barrier for seniors is transportation for them to get out and move around Village of Oak Park.

Chair Blesoff reminded the commission that they can invite people to the monthly meeting. The commission will continue to talk about the Bike/Walk program and the Bike Plan. A representative from the Bike Walk program will come back to speak again in the future.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn to was made by Commissioner Clay and seconded by Commissioner Bailey. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:53p.m.