



APPROVED MINUTES
MEETING OF THE AGING IN COMMUNITIES COMMISSION
Oak Park Village Hall, Room 124
September 11, 2025 - 6:00pm

The September 11, 2025 meeting of the Aging in Communities Commission was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair Blesoff.

Roll Call: .

Marc Blesoff	Present
Monika Robinson	Present
George Bailey	Present
Evelyn Clay	Absent
Carl Spight	Present
Linda T Francis	Present
Melissa A Avila	Present

Staff present: Cassandra L Adediran

Agenda Approval: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Comm. Frances and seconded by Comm. Bailey. All were in favor.

Minutes Approval: Motion to approve minutes from the August 14, 2025 meeting, was made by Comm. Robinson and seconded by Comm. Bailey. All were in favor.

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

Old Business:

1. Ageism Awareness Day Program – Ageism Awareness Day is Thursday, October 9, 2025. The luncheon for the Village Hall leadership will be from 12pm – 2pm at the Village Hall. An invitation to leadership will be sent out by staff. The public event will be held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 W. Lake ST, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Comm. Robinson will work with staff for refreshments. Chair Blesoff and Comm. Aviles will work with staff for outreach to village community leaders. An article will appear in the Wednesday Journal by the first week of October. Chair Blesoff will announce the event during the All-Chair meeting on 9/28/2025.
2. Anti-Ageism Public Art Project – The art project will come up in the 2026 Work Plan as it will not happen anytime this year. An acknowledgement was given to Comm Bailey and former Comm Cimaglio for their time and work put into the art project. Comm. Frances suggested that the commission speaks to the Director of the Oak Park Area Arts Council, Camille Wilson-White to reserve the AIC’s place. Chair Blesoff sees Chief Officer of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Office, Kellye Keyes, as an asset to help move the public art project along. The idea of using another entity for the art project was

posed. Comm Bailey mentioned the intergenerational interest as part of its curriculum at the high school while Comm Robinson suggested reaching out to a specific group at the high school so that engagement still happens during the school year. Comm. Francis will look into contacts at the high school, with the Student Activity Director being one possible candidate. Comm. Bailey expressed concern about the donation from Mary Jo Schuler. Per Chair Blesoff, he reached out with no response but perhaps when something concrete happens, Mary Jo Schuler will be interested.

New Business:

1. Mention of Ageism Awareness Day is mentioned in the October Health Beat Newsletter – Per Chair Blesoff, two (2) things are happening now – Ageism Awareness Day and the Health Beat Newsletter from the Village of Oak Park’s which stems from the Village of Oak Park’s Dept of Health. Chair Blesoff bringing these items to the Village Board.
2. Mention of Ageism in the Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN) for 2026 from the Health Department. – Comm. Robinson reviewed the IPLAN and related that there are three (3) top subjects: safety, access to care, and condition of care. Comm. Robinson shared documentation with empirical data to show a method to approach the Board and will provide the URL for the source.
3. Work Plan 2026 – Chair Blesoff asked the things to include in the work plan are Day In Our Village, Ageism Awareness Day, and Anti-Ageism Public Art Project. A suggestion for a line item for a Movie Event was made. Comm Robinson informed the members that several commissions, collectively, used to have an annual event, before COVID, where they would award a person for their service around being a supportive agent. Comm. Francis suggested that the items on the work plan be more specific, achievable, and formed around idea of objective, strategy, tactic, outcomes time frame and cost. Per Comm Francis, it is on the commission to operationalize their plan throughout the year. Comm Robinson offered clarity on how to measure the outcomes, moreso that the Board receives what the AIC is trying to accomplish. Comm Spight sought clarity on the aim that the AIC rethinks its strategy for creating the work plan; several commissioners agreed that the AIC does not get to every item in the year. Chair Blesoff explained to Comm. Francis that all commissions follow the framework [of the workplan], and that commissions are given space for creativity and it appears that the work plan does not have to follow a particular template. Conversations continued about the work plan and its being based off of the enabling language. Comm. Francis agreed to create a draft workplan based on input of the commission. Chair Blesoff and Comm. Francis will talk about the plan before next meeting. The AIC will work as quickly as possible to produce a quality work plan. As for the Becca Levy project, commissioners have asked for a report on the project once it completed, which they were assured that the outcome of the project will impact Oak Park and Beyond.
4. Character of Our Commission Discussion – Chair Blesoff and Comm Bailey have discussed whether Comm Bailey will remain a commissioner or do another term when his expiration date comes up. There are changes in the world which pose challenges to

working with the aging population. The overall question was can the commissioners continue to be commissioners and older people at the same time. Discussion centered around how the Aging in Communities Commission exists in a changing world through different methods of communication, intergenerational activities, and being able to gather. The overall discussion about the character of the Aging in Communities Commission was deemed helpful by Chair Blesoff.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn to was made by Comm. Francis and seconded by Commissioner Speight. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:47p.m.