

NOTICE OF MEETING & AGENDA
SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION
DREW WATSON, CHAIR
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 – 8:00 AM
ADULT ACTIVITY CENTER
POTTAWATOMIE COMMUNITY CENTER
8 NORTH AVENUE, ST. CHARLES, IL

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. July 10, 2026 (revised)
 - b. August 12, 2026
4. Chair's Report
 - a. Google Drive
 - b. Senator DeWitte Senior Expo
 - c. Senior transportation needs
- 5. Discussion: November 4 Senior Scam Seminar**
 - a. Draft program agenda for group review
 - b. Speaker and promotion status (Mayor Hull, Police and Fire Chiefs, Officer Kramer, AG's office)
- 6. Discussion: Senior Resource Guide – First Draft**
 - a. Design and content-verification approach
 - b. Focus grouping by year-end, per Mayor Hull
- 7. Discussion: Senior Homestead Exemption – City Outreach and Advertising**
 - a. Status – Assessor's office review and alderperson list-sharing question
 - b. Messaging – Homestead vs. Senior Freeze exemption confusion
- 8. Discussion: Scarecrow Fest**
 - a. Construction, attendance, and event enrollment
9. Working Group Reports
 - a. Communications (Zimmer & Fulkerson)
 - b. Housing (English & Robertson)
 - c. Transportation (Schreiber & Regelbrugge)
 - d. Partnerships (Meyer & Swanson)
10. New Business
 - a. Team Dynamics workshop offer
11. Items for Next Meeting Agenda
12. Public Comment
13. Adjourn

ADA Compliance

Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator, Jennifer McMahon, at least 48 hours in advance to the scheduled meeting. The ADA Coordinator can be reached in person at 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL, via telephone at (630) 377-4446 or 800 526 0844 (TDD), or via e-mail at jmcmahon@stcharlesil.gov. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation. Notices of this meeting were posted consistent with the requirements of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.(Open Meetings Act).

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION
DREW WATSON, CHAIR
FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026 – 8:00 AM
ST. CHARLES POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY ROOM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Drew Watson at 8:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Drew Watson, Janet English, Jennifer Fulkerson, Mary Meyer, Carol Schreiber, Mary Lynn Swanson, Mike Zimmer

Absent: Donna Robertson, Rose Regelbrugge

Others present: Alderperson Vickie Spellman; Lisa Garhan, Communications Manager, City of St. Charles; Officer Megan Kramer, Community Development Officer, St. Charles Police Department

Ex Officio present: Lynn Yuill, Park District

3. Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2026

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Watson, to approve and place on file the minutes of the Senior Services Commission meeting held on June 10, 2026. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of those members present.

4. Working Group Report – Communications: Senior Safety Seminar Update

a. Seminar Date and Venue

Jennifer Fulkerson and Mike Zimmer reported on the status of the senior safety seminar being planned in response to Mayor Hull's request. The seminar focus has been confirmed as scam and fraud awareness. Six scam topic areas have been identified and presented to Police Chief Likens: (1) investment and cryptocurrency scams; (2) tech support scams; (3) government impersonation; (4) grandparent/family emergency scams; (5) romance scams; and (6) driver's license and tollway violation scams. Chief Likens proposed November 4th as the date pending schedules of presenter's line up for that date. The seminar will be held in the community room at the St. Charles Police Department. Room reservation for the police department community room is to be formalized through Sarah (Chief's administrative assistant).

b. Speakers and Program

Officer Kramer confirmed her availability and willingness to serve as the primary presenter on scam and fraud topics. She noted a potential scheduling conflict with the "Too Good for Drugs" program in the fall, which she will resolve once her fall schedule is finalized. Officer Kramer indicated she routinely covers both fraud/scam awareness and physical safety topics and can tailor the presentation to the commission's needs. The commission discussed a 60- to 90-minute program to cover the six identified topics plus Q&A. The fire department's involvement was discussed; consensus was to keep the November seminar focused on fraud and scams, with fire department content (smoke/CO detectors, File of Life) available as take-one materials at a resource table rather than as a formal presentation segment. Mayor Hull has offered contacts at the Illinois Attorney General's office as potential additional speakers. Drew Watson confirmed the mayor wants to be directly involved in agenda development.

c. Food, Promotion, and Next Steps

Mary Lynn Swanson noted, based on Triad experience, that food is essential to attendance. Food and beverage planning will be addressed once date, venue, and program are finalized. Mike Zimmer will forward his seminar proposal email to Officer Kramer so she is aligned on topics. The commission confirmed the Triad's annual safety event is scheduled for Friday, October 16, which presents an opportunity to cross-promote the November 4 seminar. Drew Watson confirmed the commission may have a table at Senator DeWitt's expo in September to promote the November event and raise awareness of the commission. Lisa Garhan noted the city newsletter (monthly, next issue approximately August 1) can be used to publicize the seminar and partner events. Mike Zimmer and Jennifer Fulkerson will meet with Lisa Garhan and Mayor Hull prior to the next meeting to discuss communications strategy and promotion.

5. Working Group Report – Communications: Information Sharing and Calendar

Alderperson Spellman proposed creating a shared Google calendar that all commissioners could access and populate with senior services events as they are discovered. Drew Watson noted this aligns with the commission's goal of developing a central information hub, which would eventually be accessible to the public. Lisa Garhan confirmed the city newsletter and social media channels can help promote partner organization events when they are connected to commission activities. Commissioners discussed the dual-audience strategy: paper materials and print resources remain important for the current senior population, while digital formats are necessary to reach caregivers and family members. Drew Watson committed to setting up a shared Google document repository to capture working group research, goals, and emerging ideas.

6. Working Group Report – Transportation: Batavia RSVP and RTA

a. Batavia RSVP Program

Carol Schreiber reported that she contacted Mr. Link, President of the Batavia RSVP program, which operates a volunteer driver model providing rides to seniors for medical appointments, dialysis, and similar needs. Mr. Link expressed willingness to meet with Carol Schreiber and Rose Regelbrugge to share program data and operational information. The program also offers a residential lock installation service. Drew Watson noted that Batavia RSVP is structured as a private LLC, which raises the question of appropriate organizational structure for any analogous program in St. Charles, as the commission is advisory and cannot form such an entity. The city itself or a separate nonprofit would need to be the operating body. The transportation group will conduct a feasibility analysis of the Batavia model and evaluate its applicability to St. Charles.

b. RTA / Pace Paratransit

Carol Schreiber reported attempting to use the RTA on-demand dial-a-ride service in advance of a commission meeting to understand the enrollment and use process firsthand. She found that a pre-issued RTA card is required to make a reservation, and that enrollment is done entirely online, creating a significant access barrier for seniors who are not computer-proficient. Mary Lynn Swanson described a multi-step enrollment process involving identity verification, form submission, and a wait of approximately six weeks to receive a card. Lynn Yuill (Park District, departing) noted that an RTA representative previously presented at the Potawatomi Activity Center and described multiple card types, including different options for seniors versus those with physical disabilities. Carol Lynn Yuill stated she would provide RTA contact information to the commission to facilitate follow-up. Carol Schreiber suggested inviting an RTA representative to a future event – possibly at the St. Charles Public Library, which has computer resources – to help seniors enroll on the spot. The Transportation group will follow up with RTA on a possible enrollment-assistance event for 2027.

7. Working Group Report – Partnerships: Peer Research and AARP Age-Friendly Communities

a. Research Binders and Peer Community Visits

Mary Lynn Swanson presented research binders compiled from visits to peer senior commissions and from publicly available materials, organized by topic: local St. Charles services, state of Illinois resources (including Medicaid and SHIP), housing, transportation, healthcare, and AARP programs. Commissioners who visited peer commissions noted that Elmhurst (a 25-year-old commission) and Glendale Heights stood out as model programs. Elmhurst operates with full city marketing support and no separate budget; Glendale Heights has a dedicated senior center building that generates revenue through event rental. Drew Watson noted these represent

longer-term aspirational models for St. Charles. Alderperson Spellman praised the comprehensiveness of the research. Mary Lynn Swanson proposed placing select resource booklets at a dedicated shelf in the St. Charles Public Library as an interim step while the commission builds its digital information hub.

b. AARP Age-Friendly Communities Program

Mary Meyer reported on her conversation with Tracy Kologosi, Senior Services Manager at the City of Arlington Heights, regarding the AARP Age-Friendly Communities certification process. The program requires a community survey; Arlington Heights conducted surveys in 2019 (850 respondents) and 2023 (375 respondents). All surveys are submitted online through SurveyMonkey; Arlington Heights used volunteer-assisted completion at community events to accommodate non-computer-proficient seniors. The survey targets residents age 45 and older to capture future population trends. Mary Meyer received a 51-page reference document from Kologosi. There are nine Illinois cities that have applied for AARP Age-Friendly designation; several have not completed the process. Drew Watson noted the city currently scores approximately 51 out of 100 on AARP's community benchmark assessment, which communities receive without formally enrolling in the program. He described the program as a potential framework for measuring commission progress, consistent with Mayor Hull's expectation that the commission demonstrate measurable outcomes. There is no application fee; however, formal entry requires a letter of support from the mayor and completion of the community survey. Drew Watson offered to connect Mary Meyer with the AARP State of Illinois contact and suggested inviting that representative to a future commission meeting. The Partnerships group will continue researching the program and bring a recommendation to the full commission.

c. Working Group Coordination

Chair Drew Watson asked Mary Lynn Swanson and Mary Meyer to meet and align on key partner relationships, especially the fire chief, police chief, library director, and park district director, as those are the commission's primary institutional partners. He asked that Mary Meyer be brought up to speed on the relationships and research Mary Lynn Swanson has developed.

8. Working Group Report – Housing: Progressive Tour and Carroll Towers Update

a. Progressive Senior Housing Tour

Janet English reported on the progressive housing tour attended by Drew Watson, Mike Zimmer, Mary Lynn Swanson, and Janet English, which visited five senior housing facilities in the Batavia and St. Charles area. Facilities included a range of care types: memory care, physical therapy/rehabilitation (including Ignite, described as a new and highly modern facility in Batavia), and subsidized housing. The tour provided direct exposure to the variety and volume of senior housing options and care levels available in the area. Janet English also attended the Batavia Senior Expo

(38 presenters), collecting materials across topics including property taxes, living arrangements, healthcare, and in-home aging support services. Those materials were passed to Mike Zimmer for use by the Communications group.

b. Carroll Towers Update

Janet English reported a conversation with John Glenn, a 10-year member of the St. Charles Housing Commission, regarding both the Housing Commission's overall progress and the status of Carroll Towers. Glenn indicated that a developer had planned to rehabilitate Carroll Towers but could not secure financing. Progress on affordable and senior housing in St. Charles has been slow, often limited to one unit at a time. A new senior development called Prairie Center near West Main Street (St. Anthony's site) is full and has a waiting list. Alderperson Spellman previously distributed to commissioners a comprehensive inventory of senior housing options in St. Charles, which showed St. Charles has among the highest concentration of senior housing in the region. The Housing group will continue monitoring Carroll Towers and available senior housing capacity.

9. Chair's Report – Senior Tax Exemption Outreach Initiative

Drew Watson updated the commission on an initiative to identify senior homeowners in St. Charles Township who are eligible for the Senior Homestead Exemption but have not yet enrolled. Using voter roll data (containing names, addresses, and birth dates) and an Excel file provided by Kane County Assessor Mark Armstrong (containing parcel numbers, addresses, and exemption status), Watson used AI tools to cross-reference and identify eligible non-enrollees. After removing duplicates, the list contains approximately 900 individuals within St. Charles Township. The Kane County Assessor's website allows manual verification of exemption status by parcel number. Janet English has been reviewing the list and found additional duplicates to remove. The commission discussed appropriate use of the data: Lisa Garhan recommended that any outreach would be more appropriate coming from the County Assessor rather than the city. The commission will consult the city attorney regarding permissible outreach approaches. Broader public awareness through the city newsletter (e.g., around property tax due dates in September) was identified as a lower-risk alternative to direct contact. Questions were raised about eligibility for properties held in revocable trusts; this will be confirmed with the County Assessor's office. Drew Watson will send Lisa Garhan an email to initiate the legal review.

10. Grant Opportunities Discussion

Drew Watson raised the question of whether the commission should develop a process for pursuing grant funding, noting that Alderperson Spellman had identified several applicable programs including the AARP Community Challenge Grant, the HUD Community Development Block Grant, and Older Americans Act funding. The commission discussed the following: as an advisory body, the SSC cannot directly apply for or receive grants; any grant application would need to be submitted by the City of St. Charles. The

commission's role would be to identify grant opportunities aligned with a specific program goal and bring them to city staff for consideration. Lisa Garhan confirmed that grant applications at the city are typically managed by individual departments; there is a general grant writer on staff. Mary Lynn Swanson noted that grants generally require: a defined goal and budget, a specific use of funds, and, for private foundation grants, preliminary relationship-building with the funder before formal application. Commissioners agreed that grant pursuit is premature at this stage, as the commission is in only its third month of operation and has not yet established clear programmatic priorities. Near-term funding needs (promotional materials, event table displays, mailings) may be addressed through the city's general fund at the request of city administration. Drew Watson confirmed that Mayor Hull and City Administrator Heather McGuire have indicated willingness to support modest operational expenses through existing city budgets. The commission will revisit grant strategy once working group goals are more fully defined.

11. Police Department Resources – Social Worker and Cares Program

Drew Watson asked Officer Kramer to provide an overview of police department senior support resources. Officer Kramer described the city's contract with AID (Aid to Individuals with Disabilities) for an embedded social worker, Wendy Stanton, who assists with hoarding situations, dementia-related cases, family support, and similar needs. Wendy is on call and can be reached after hours. Families are often unaware of her availability. Officer Kramer also described the Cares/Elder Services Program, under which seniors voluntarily register with the department and can be checked on in an emergency. Current enrollment is fewer than 20 residents, primarily due to limited public awareness and some seniors' reluctance to have police officers conduct home visits. Drew Watson proposed promoting both AID and the Cares program at the commission's table at Senator DeWitt's expo. Mary Lynn Swanson noted that Meals on Wheels also conducts wellness calls on non-delivery days and provides pet food, a detail Officer Kramer found valuable given that the department sometimes encounters seniors who resist help due to concerns about their pets. Drew Watson asked Officer Kramer to arrange an introduction between the commission and Wendy Stanton at a future meeting.

12. Items for Next Meeting Agenda

Items identified for future agenda consideration include: introduction of AID social worker Wendy Stanton; update on Batavia RSVP program; update on November 4 seminar planning; working group written goal summaries; shared Google repository setup; further discussion of AARP Age-Friendly Communities program; and ongoing monitoring of RTA enrollment assistance opportunities.

13. Public Comment

No members of the public were present. No public comment was taken.

14. Adjourn

Motion by Watson, seconded by Swanson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of those members present.

MINUTES
SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION
DREW WATSON, CHAIR
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026 – 8:00 AM
ST. CHARLES POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY ROOM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Drew Watson.

2. Roll Call

Present: Drew Watson, Janet English, Jennifer Fulkerson, Mary Meyer, Donna Robertson, Rose Regelbrugge, Carol Schreiber, Mary Lynn Swanson, Mike Zimmer.

Absent: None.

Others present: Officer Megan Kramer, Community Development Officer, St. Charles Police Department; Lynne Yuill, Park District (Ex Officio); guest speakers Colonel Jake Wyatt (VFW), Wendy Stanton, MSW (Association for Individual Development / embedded SCPD social worker), Kerry Pierce-Demski (Code Enforcement Manager) and Dan Moore (Code Enforcement Inspector), City of St. Charles; and Crystal Phillips, VNA Healthcare / Kane County TRIAD.

3. Approval of Minutes – July 10, 2026

Commissioner Zimmer identified a correction needed to the July 10, 2026 minutes. No motion to approve was made. The July 10 minutes will be revised and brought back, together with the minutes of this meeting, for approval at the September meeting.

4. Guest Speaker Presentations

a. Colonel Jake Wyatt, VFW

Colonel Wyatt, a retired U.S. Army officer and 1966 graduate of St. Charles High School, addressed the Commission on behalf of VFW Post 5036 and American Legion Post 342. He described the veteran population served by the two posts (approximately 129 VFW members and just over 250 American Legion members, of whom about 127 hold dual membership), noting that more than 4,000 veterans live in St. Charles though local post membership has declined sharply since the 1990s. He described weekly gatherings at the veterans center (Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 30–60 attendees, average age 70-plus) and outreach to assisted-living facilities, including a weekly program at Silver Glen Home Center.

He urged commissioners, when visiting seniors, to ask whether they served and are registered with the VA, noting that registration unlocks benefits including free burial and full VA medical care through the Hines VA Hospital system. He described the VFW's youth programs (the Patriot's Pen essay contest for middle schoolers and Voice of Democracy for high schoolers, with scholarships up to \$35,000 at the national level) and invited the Commission to the joint Constitution Day / Citizenship Day observance on Saturday, September 19 at noon at the Boy Scout headquarters, featuring student speeches and approximately 1,250 flags honoring Illinois's fallen.

He raised the possibility of veteran representation on the Commission, potentially as an ex officio position, as an alternative to forming a separate veterans commission. Chair Watson indicated openness to continuing that conversation.

b. Wendy Stanton, MSW

Ms. Stanton, the embedded social worker contracted through the Association for Individual Development (A.I.D.) and based at the St. Charles Police Department, introduced herself and described her role. A.I.D. contracts with eight area police departments; St. Charles has historically been among the highest-referral communities in that network. Referrals come primarily from police and fire, supplemented by walk-ins and self-referrals; she reported serving approximately 305 individuals in the St. Charles area last year, with significant work involving elderly clients, wellness checks, and coordination with Senior Services and other community partners.

She described a recent case in which a hoarding and uninhabitable-housing situation was resolved through coordination with Code Enforcement and a donated furnace, allowing the resident to remain in her home. She discussed housing waitlists (most St. Charles-area lists are effectively closed; she generally directs clients toward Aurora, Chicago, or a regional SRM list), phone assistance for clients who cannot afford one (funded this year through a mental health board grant), and severe-weather sheltering coordination. She recommended low-cost hardware-store lockboxes (approximately \$30) rather than the higher-cost lockboxes referenced on some fire department materials, and described a City fire department key-tracking system tied to individualized codes.

c. Kerry Pierce-Demski, Code Enforcement Manager, and Dan Moore, Code Enforcement Inspector, City of St. Charles

Ms. Pierce-Demski introduced herself and Mr. Moore, a new code enforcement inspector. She described her background (20 years as a police officer prior to 20 years in code enforcement) and her interest in connecting with the Commission after learning of its reactivation through Communications Manager Lisa Garhan. She described Code Enforcement's role handling landlord-tenant, dilapidated-building, and hoarding complaints, and her coordination with Ms. Stanton on cases requiring both enforcement and social-service intervention, including the furnace-donation case Ms. Stanton described.

She referenced a community day-of-service model ("Amazing Mundelein") from her previous police career and offered it as a possible model for a St. Charles volunteer service day, noting she had already identified three residents needing minor assistance ahead of an August 30 community-service event referenced by the group. She offered to share her and Mr. Moore's contact information with commissioners.

d. Additional guest introduction (not on printed agenda) – Crystal Phillips, VNA Healthcare / Kane County TRIAD

Ms. Phillips introduced herself as a representative of VNA Healthcare, a roughly 109-year-old organization (originally the Visiting Nurses Association) providing birth-to-death care including obstetrics, home health, hospice, and behavioral health across 15 locations, with no client turned away for lack of a payer source and a sliding fee scale available. She serves on advisory boards for Elgin and Aurora senior services, is active with the Kane County TRIAD, and described VNA Healthcare's dementia support-group work in partnership with LaVon Lenaway (Dragonfly).

5. Chair's Report

a. Working group coordination and meeting process

Chair Watson described the Commission's working process: individual working groups execute projects and route promotional or communications needs through Commissioners Zimmer and Fulkerson, who coordinate with City staff; groups may collaborate directly with one another (e.g., Transportation and Housing) as needed. He noted the Commission has not yet taken many formal votes as it continues to organize itself, and reminded members that any commissioner may move to bring a matter to a vote.

b. DeKalb Township Senior Symposium

Chair Watson and Commissioner Swanson attended the DeKalb Township Senior Symposium, a rotating three-track program (approximately 50 attendees; sessions included dementia and end-of-life planning) running from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and featuring a dedicated senior transportation shuttle. Chair Watson described it as a useful benchmark, distinct in format from the vendor-table Batavia Senior Expo and comparable in scale to what the Commission envisions for its own November 4 program.

c. Google Drive shared repository

Chair Watson reported that the shared Google Drive repository proposed at the prior meeting has been created. He is resolving access issues for commissioners without Gmail addresses and will distribute access, together with a shared calendar, once resolved.

d. Senior Resource Guide – first draft review

Chair Watson distributed the City's current printed senior resource guide (largely unchanged since a 2002 edition) alongside a first-draft revision he prepared, using AI-assisted review to check phone numbers, web addresses, and program information for accuracy; several discrepancies were identified in the existing guide. He proposed restructuring the guide to lead with a short list of priority action items for new or prospective seniors, followed by detailed resource listings. He distributed a list of overlapping City senior-support programs (the Police Department's Cares/Elder Watch program, the Fire Department's Home Safety Program, File of Life, and the Premise Alert Program) and suggested exploring a single, consolidated sign-up point for residents rather than separate enrollment in each program. He asked commissioners to review the draft via the Google Drive repository and offered to schedule a dedicated working session, potentially a special meeting, to review it page by page before any public release; the guide will not be distributed publicly until information is verified as current and complete.

e. Lockbox and key-tracking discussion

Following the Resource Guide discussion, commissioners discussed the Fire Department's lockbox program, including cost (commercially advertised lockboxes run \$300–\$400 versus roughly \$30 hardware-store models used by Ms. Stanton), individualized-key tracking at the Fire Department, and comparison to the Batavia RSVP program's citizen-funded lockbox model. No action was taken; the topic was noted for further coordination with the City.

f. Senator Dewitte Senior Expo

Commissioners confirmed the Commission will have a table at Senator Don DeWitte's Senior Expo on September 15. Commissioners Swanson, English, and Fulkerson confirmed they will staff the table. Discussion covered handout materials, including a small existing City handout and a suggestion to add a QR code linking to City resources; the City has provided a table skirt and Communications Manager Lisa Garhan has produced signage for the table.

6. Working Group Reports and Discussion

a. Communications (Zimmer & Fulkerson) – November 4 Senior Scam Seminar

Commissioners Zimmer and Fulkerson reported the seminar date, time, and venue are now confirmed: Wednesday, November 4, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at the Pottawatomie Community Center. The Police Department community room (60-person capacity) was determined to be undersized after Chair Watson, together with the Mayor, attended a comparable Geneva program that drew approximately 90 attendees; Commissioners Zimmer and Fulkerson subsequently toured available venues and identified the Pottawatomie Center's three multi-purpose rooms, which can be combined for up to 90 attendees. The six scam and fraud topic areas previously identified have been submitted to Officer Kramer and Chief Likens.

Commissioners Zimmer and Fulkerson met with Communications Manager Lisa Garhan in July for a general communications-strategy discussion and will meet again now that the date and venue are confirmed to plan promotion, including a flyer for the September DeWitte expo and a social media push; they will also confirm on-site audio/visual equipment (a Bluetooth speaker) at the venue. The group will coordinate with Commissioners Swanson and Meyer regarding Mayor Hull's contacts at the Illinois Attorney General's office as potential additional speakers; a contact (Angelica) and informational packet from the Attorney General's office was distributed to the group.

b. Housing (English & Robertson)

Commissioners English and Swanson reported on visits to three area senior housing options. The Township (formerly Surrey Hills, off Tyler Road) was described as clean and well-maintained, with a mixed (not senior-restricted) population and a pet-friendly policy, but assessed as expensive relative to the amenities offered. Hunt Club Village (age 62+, 103 units, garages available) was assessed as similarly priced high relative to unit size, though renovations are underway. Prairie Center (the former St. Anthony's site, referred to as "Anthony Place") was identified as the newest and most affordable senior-only building, subsidized, with wheelchair-accessible units, an on-site A.I.D. case-management office one day per week, a community bulletin board listing utility-assistance (LIHEAP) and grocery-delivery resources, and an approximately two-year waiting list. Commissioners noted that Prairie Center's affordability requirement was tied to an affordable-housing condition attached to the site's expired TIF district.

Commissioner Swanson reported contacting Lazarus House, which served 12 seniors age 65-plus in 2025 and currently serves 42 residents age 50–64; Lazarus House estimated 10–12 homeless individuals are present in St. Charles at a given time, with numbers rising seasonally. Lazarus House identified affordable, age-restricted housing for lower-income individuals as the community's greatest unmet senior need. Discussion also covered Carroll Towers' uncertain status, outreach to Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army (not yet contacted directly by the working group, though other City resources maintain relationships with them), and the City's ongoing consideration of how affordable-housing in-lieu fees collected from developers are used.

Commissioner English reported having contacted Kane County Assessor Mark Armstrong regarding the Commission's senior exemption outreach list. Mr. Armstrong advised against a second mailing to the existing list, noting the County has already processed 309 new senior exemptions in St. Charles Township this year, which has made the Commission's list partially obsolete, and cautioned that outreach to residents who no longer need the information would be confusing; he offered to review any future mailing before distribution. The Commission discussed a lower-risk alternative — a Facebook post directing residents (or their caregivers) to check their own exemption status — and continued public confusion between the Senior Homestead Exemption (not filed annually) and the Senior Freeze exemption (income-based, filed annually). Commissioner English separately reported having asked Ms. Garhan whether an updated version of the list could be shared with individual alderpersons for outreach to affected constituents in their wards; a response from Ms. Garhan was pending as of this meeting.

c. Transportation (Schreiber & Regelbrugge)

Commissioner Schreiber reported she has received her RTA card and successfully used the on-demand Pace/Ventra system, though enrollment took approximately two weeks to process. She presented a cost comparison from her home to Delnor Hospital showing on-demand Pace service as the least expensive option, followed by Lyft (which offers a senior "Lyft Silver" discount) and Uber (no senior discount); on-demand Pace service does not operate on Sundays and does not always return available routes, requiring advance scheduling rather than immediate pickup. Fixed Pace bus Route 31 was noted as an option but does not directly serve locations such as Delnor Hospital or the Kirk Road-area grocery corridor.

Commissioner Regelbrugge reported outreach to Senior Services Associates (based in Aurora), which provides scheduled rides for medical appointments, and to several large local churches regarding volunteer-

driver programs; one large Catholic parish declined to participate, citing liability concerns. Commissioners noted this may be addressed by Good Samaritan or similar liability provisions and warrants further research into how other volunteer-driver programs, such as Batavia's RSVP program, are structured and insured.

Chair Watson reported contacting Jody Remakel, Supervisor of Hampshire Township, regarding that township's senior transportation program. Hampshire Township funds a dedicated senior transportation budget (approximately \$100,000 annually) through a special tax levy, employs its own drivers, and owns its own vehicles; the township also lends durable medical equipment (e.g., wheelchairs, crutches) to residents on a temporary basis. Commissioners noted St. Charles Township has similar authority but has not exercised it to the same extent, and discussed school-district shuttle buses and the statewide 211 information line as additional resources to explore.

d. Partnerships (Meyer & Swanson)

Commissioner Meyer distributed two draft resident surveys for committee review: one based on an AARP template (available for the Commission's use without licensing restriction) and a second, AI-generated survey. She reported the City has offered to host either survey on SurveyMonkey via the City website and to compile results for the Commission. She connected the survey effort to the AARP Age-Friendly Communities program, under which formal participation would require a letter of support from the Mayor and a resident survey funded and promoted by the City. Commissioners agreed the surveys warrant review before any public release and discussed pairing survey promotion with the November 4 seminar and the September DeWitte expo.

Commissioner Swanson distributed an index to the partner-research reference binders previously compiled, to be maintained as a working resource pending completion of the online information hub. She reported outreach to the DuPage Senior Citizens Council, which is hosting a senior dance on August 20 at the Lincoln Inn in Batavia (reservations required by August 14), and noted she will attend an AARP "Front Door to Main Street: Advancing Livable Communities" aging summit in Naperville on September 17, sponsored by the City, with room for an additional attendee if a commissioner wishes to join.

Commissioners discussed entering a Commission-sponsored scarecrow in the City's Scarecrow Fest (October 9–11) as a low-commitment way to raise the Commission's visibility. Motion to enter a Commission-sponsored scarecrow in the Scarecrow Fest. Motion by Watson, Second by Swanson. The motion passed by voice vote of those members present. Commissioner Swanson volunteered to help design the scarecrow.

7. New Business

None.

8. Public Comment

No public comment segment distinct from the guest introductions above was captured on the recording.

9. Adjourn

The recording concludes following closing remarks; a formal motion to adjourn and the time of adjournment were not captured on the recording. [Confirm for the record.]