



Our intention is to have in-person meetings going forward. For the time being, we will hold the City Committee Meetings, Plan Commission, Council and most others at the Community Room at 933 Michigan Avenue. This in-person location will meet the legal requirement for our open meetings.

We will have a virtual option available, but the technology for the hybrid style meeting may not be reliable all of the time.

Members

- Chair Kate Giblin
- Vice Chair Don Wigington
- Sarah Agena
- Pearline Douglas
- Lydia Iverson
- John Jury
- Katie Livernash
- Michele Miller
- Kaitlyn Wall
- Mykeerah Zarazua

AGENDA

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMISSION

Date and Time: May 21, 2025
5:00 PM

Location: Community Room
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

Meeting ID: 834 5511 5871

Passcode: 269770

By Computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83455115871?pwd=e8hzlojHDs1xIQSleURxVi>

By Phone: +1-312-626-6799 (US Chicago)

Opening Section:

1. Roll Call

Discussion and Possible Action on the Following:

2. Report of the March 25, 2025 meeting of the Age-Friendly Commission.
3. Refinement of housing and transportation recommendations for the Stevens Point Aging Plan.
4. Introduction of draft outdoor spaces and buildings recommendations for the Stevens Point Aging Plan.
5. Adjourn

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any person who has special needs while attending these meetings or needs agenda materials for these meetings should contact the City Clerk as soon as possible to ensure that a reasonable accommodation can be made. The City Clerk can be reached by telephone at (715) 346-1569 or by mail at 1515 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Maps further defining the above area(s) may be obtained from the City of Stevens Point Department of Community Development, 1515 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or by calling (715) 346-1567, during normal business hours.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a quorum of the Common Council may be in attendance at this meeting.

REPORT OF THE AGE-FRIENDLY COMMISSION

March 25, 2025 – 5:00 PM
933 Michigan Ave, Stevens Point, WI 54481

PRESENT: Chair Giblin, Vice Chair Wigington, Commissioner Avena, Commissioner Douglas, Commissioner Jury, Commissioner Livernash, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Wall & Commissioner Zarazua

ALSO PRESENT: Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator Kuhn

INDEX:

Opening Section:

1. Roll Call

Discussion and Possible Action on the Following:

2. Report of the December 10, 2024 meeting of the Age-Friendly Commission.
3. Discussion on draft housing recommendations for the Stevens Point Aging Plan.
4. Discussion on draft transportation recommendations for the Stevens Point Aging Plan.
5. Staff Updates:
 - Zoning Code Rewrite.

Closing Section:

6. Adjourn
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Opening Section:

1. Roll Call

Present: Avena, Douglas, Giblin, Jury, Livernash, Miller, Wall, Wigington & Zarazua

Discussion and Possible Action on the Following:

2. Report of the December 10, 2024 meeting of the Age-Friendly Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Miller to approve the December 10, 2024 minutes of the Age-Friendly Commission; seconded by Vice Chair Wigington.

Motion carried 9-0.

3. Discussion on draft housing recommendations for the Stevens Point Aging Plan.

Associate Planner / Zoning Administrator Kuhn provided a summary of the proposed policy recommendations for the housing section of the Stevens Point Aging Plan. A summary was provided for each policy, followed by discussion and proposed amendments by the Commission.

No action was taken.

4. Discussion on draft transportation recommendations for the Stevens Point Aging Plan.

Associate Planner / Zoning Administrator Kuhn provided a summary of the proposed policy recommendations for the transportation section of the Stevens Point Aging Plan. A summary was provided for each policy, followed by discussion and proposed amendments by the Commission.

No action was taken.

5. Staff Updates:

- Zoning Code Rewrite.

Associate Planner / Zoning Administrator Kuhn provided an update on the City's effort to rewrite its Zoning Code, highlighting ways that actions by this Commission will be woven into the updated regulatory document.

No action was taken.

Closing Section:

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 PM.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed/heard at: <https://stevenspoint.com/365/AgendasMinutesVideos>

Housing Element

Advocacy/Collaboration:

- Partner with local and regional advocacy groups to prioritize accessibility requirements for new housing units.
- Collaborate with community-based organizations to assess the accessibility of the city's housing stock. Examples include, but are not limited to, availability of hand rails and grab bars, lighting, maintenance of internal sidewalks, and location of accessible parking areas.
- Partner with landlords, community-based residential facilities and faith-based organizations to identify the needs of underserved community members and improve awareness of housing resources.
- Host events with community organizations & departments (e.g., Police Department, Fire Department, Aging & Disability Resource Center, etc.) to identify and eliminate accessibility risks in their homes.

Regulatory Reform:

- When providing tax incremental financing incentives for multi-family housing development, require a certain percentage of housing units to meet the American with Disabilities Act's Standards for Accessible Design.
- Pursue the following amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance to close the gap of missing middle housing:
 - Reduce minimum size requirements for principal structures from 900 sq ft to 700 sq ft.
 - Amend land use standards starting with the "R-3" Single- and Two-Family Residence District to allow middle housing development (e.g., duplex, fourplex, cottage court, townhouse, etc.) to be permitted by right.
 - Reduce minimum lot size requirements for condominium and multi-family residential uses.
 - Rewrite the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance to spur greater construction and use of ADUs within city limits.
- Adopt a provision in the City's Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance to include a procedure for property owners to apply for an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Education:

- Create and publicize a comprehensive list of resources related to housing issues that residents experience.
- Increase educational programming to encourage the clearance of snow within curb cuts.

Transportation Element

Education:

- Partner with City Transit and other local organizations to create a trip planning training opportunities that are geared for older adults.
- Increase access and marketing opportunities to driver education programs for older adults.
- Pursue the adoption of an ADA Transition Plan by 2035.

Infrastructure:

- Identify funding and operational barriers to expand community-based transportation services.
- Prioritize closing gaps in the pedestrian network through the City's high injury network streets.
- Partner with the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Street Safety Commission to implement policy recommendations outlined in the 2025 Portage County Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.
- Prioritize locations to install audible pedestrian signals.
- For multi-family and non-residential land uses, require in the City's Zoning Code that an accessible path shall be constructed between a parking lot main entrances into the principal building.

Programming:

- Collaborate with neighborhood associations in creating a sidewalk assistance volunteer program.
- Obtain membership with the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation.

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings Element

Improve the safety and accessibility of the City's parks:

- When drafting the next Comprehensive Outdoor & Recreation Plan, the City should consider the following:
 - Improve the safety of new park infrastructure by prioritizing level walking paths and non-glare paving surfaces.
 - For the more utilized parks, install ramps and railings along high-traffic areas within the park.
 - Encourage greater usage of parks for older residents by providing shaded areas within parks with trees and shade structures (e.g., gazebos, pergolas, etc.).
 - Identify parks that have the greatest need for seating accommodations, and create a timeline to provide such accommodations within the next 5-10 years.
 - Identify an existing City park to serve as a pilot for installing universal design park infrastructure that can be used by people of all abilities.
- Create walking maps to identify preferred routes to City parks within a neighborhood.
- Partner with civic organizations to increase the perception of safety within and around parks.

Identify and correct barriers to accessibility for City facilities:

- Create and implement an ADA Transition Plan to improve all City buildings to minimum accessibility standards.
- Partner with area non-profits to create an inventory of public amenities throughout the City, and identify which amenities are accessible.