Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
January 7, 2020

Village of Homer Glen
14240 W 151st Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491
Community Room
1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Trustee Sharon Sweas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Members present were Co-Chair Trustee Sharon Sweas, Co-Chair Trustee Ruben Pazmino, Margaret Sabo, Cynthia Rataj, Joe Turrise, Nancy Carlson, Andy Panelli, and Staff Member Melissa King.

Others in attendance were Village Manager Karie Friling, Facilities Manager John Robinson, and Development Services Director Mike Salamowicz

Absent: Bob Moses, Randy Juras, Gary White, John Lobick - Advisor and Cathy Rehr - Advisor

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

No amendments were made.

5. Minutes.

a) November 5, 2019
Member Rataj made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2019 and April 25, 2019 meeting; Member Juras seconded the motion. No Discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting minutes were approved.

6. Public Comment.

No public comments were made

7. Special Topic

a) Street Light Upgrades – ComEd Energy Efficiency Program.
Staff members Mike Salamowicz and John Robinson gave a presentation on the proposed lighting upgrades for some of the Village street lighting and park lighting. Staff is proposing to switch out current street lighting with energy efficient 3,000K LED street lights that are complimentary to the existing post/arm that existing in the neighborhood. Staff is also proposing to switch out park lighting (path and court lighting) with energy efficient 3,000K LED fixtures. Per staff, the proposed lighting was selected from the International Dark Sky website with a 3,000K limit (what was perceived as the code requirement), full-cutoff and then cross referenced for Design Light Consortium (DLC) certification, which is a requirement of the ComEd Energy Efficiency rebate program. The Village Manager, Karie Friling, explained the interest of
the Village is to reduce energy costs, find a standard light to make maintenance
easier and also meet our code requirements for dark sky.

Members of the committee brought up a number of topics regarding the staff
proposal. There was general concern for the following items regarding LED vs.
HPS: increased lumen output, increased glare, increased blue/white light and the
impact of that temperature light on skylight, and also that the street lighting
section of the Village code states that street lights must be an HPS or lamp
equivalent. There was much discussion over whether or not the specified lamp
replacement is an equivalent. Members reported that recent research indicates
that LED’s do not provide for a fair equivalent comparison to the HPS
lamps. Members brought a recommendation from the “Dark Sky Partners” to
replace the street lighting with an amber LED fixture that measures closer to
the Kelvin of an HPS lamp (2,200K).

Staff and members agreed to have a conference call with the experts from the
Dark Sky Partners to discuss the recent research on LED replacement of HPS
lighting, update research on impacts to skylight form LED’s and also the
recommended fixture. Staff indicated that selecting this lower Kelvin fixture
would likely result in the Village not being able to utilize the ComEd rebate
program, as the amber fixture found thus far is not DLC certified.

8. Old Business.

a) Landscape Code, Design Guidelines Draft (Savoy Consultants)
   Staff introduced the item for discussion. Members recommended the item be
tabled until the February meeting so that enough time could be spent in
discussion.

b) 2020 Environment Committee Events and Activities – Staff shared the Village-
   wide scheduled events for 2020 and discussed generally when the environment
   committee events could happen. The following events were discussed:

   1. Household Hazardous Waste – Event is schedule for this spring.
   2. Two stargazing – Co-Chair Sweas is waiting to hear from the
      astronomer groups.
   3. Big Tree Contest – No discussion.
   4. Community and Nature in Harmony Awards – No Discussion
   5. Arbor Day Tree Planting, Friday April 24 – No Discussion
   6. Earth Day Cleanup/Homer Glen Lands Day, Wednesday April 22 –
      Members discussed whether we do two cleanups or just do one and
      whether to keep it in April or move it. Member Rataj recommended that
      we have an event on a Saturday with a rain date the immediate
      following Sunday. Last years’ event was canceled in April and
      rescheduled to Homer Glen Lands Day. Members discussed maybe
      having an invasive removal event on Homer Glen Lands Day.
   7. Art Upcycling - Maybe a good idea to piggy back on another event; i.e.
      “upcycle art” at the Chalk it up Event.
   8. Members discussed wanting to do the plastic free insert in the Homer
      Horizon again in July.
c) Dark Sky Commercial Lighting Brochure

Discussed in general how we can incorporate a mailing regarding commercial lighting to all the businesses and that they would like to get something out soon.


Committee members discussed an article in the Homer Horizon that spotlighted a local Homer Glen company has an E-Waste recycling program. The company is located across from the Purple Onion on 143rd Street in one of the multi-story office buildings. Members thought it might be a good idea to add this company to our list of nominees for a Community & Nature in Harmony Award for 2020. The com

9. Announcements/Committee Member Communication

Staff liaison, Melissa King, made a reminder announcement of the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Update workshop on the sub-area/future land use plan. The workshop is scheduled for February 11, 2020, 5pm at the Village Hall.

Member Turrise brought up the roadside/littering cleanup ordinance and asked if there was any interest in adding “please do not litter” signage along the roadways?

10. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn made by Member Turrise; seconded by Member Carlson. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melissa W. King
Senior Planner/Project Manager