

Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
January 8, 2019

**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 6:32 p.m. by Trustee Sharon Sweas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Members present at 6:32 p.m. were Trustee Sharon Sweas, Randy Juras, Kathy Kudla, Andy Panelli, Cynthia Rataj, and Joe Turrise. Nancy Carlson arrived at 6:34 p.m., and Margaret Sabo arrived at 6:39 p.m.

Members Absent: Bob Moses, and Gary White.

Also Present: Advisors Cathy Rehr and John Lobick, and Community Relations Coordinator Sue Steilen.

Guest: Resident Rachel Sweet was present and left after her Earth Day presentation.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

Trustee Sweas made a motion to move item 2019 Earth Day/Cleanup Day event to 8.a. and 2019 Plastic-Free Month Discussion to 8.b. Second was made by Member Rataj. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Minutes.

a) November 13, 2018

Member Kudla made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting; seconded by Member Rataj. Motion passed unanimously.

b) December 4, 2018

Member Rataj made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting; seconded by Member Kudla. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment.

Debbie and Jerry Fox spoke about their concerns with the Bee ordinance and the moratorium on enforcing the zoning code against having bee hives on small lots. The Foxes live in Sylvan Hills and do not believe beekeeping should take place in residential areas. A neighbor of the Foxes has recently set beehives on his property. The temperatures in December were warm enough for the bees to leave their hive. The bees had been disturbed and swarmed into the Foxes yard. Member Sweas will

follow up with Chief Building Official Joe Baber. A discussion about the Bee ordinance will be added to the February meeting agenda

7. Announcements/Committee Members Communication

No other announcements were made.

8. Old Business.

a) 2019 Earth Day/Cleanup Day Event

Resident Rachel Sweet initiated and coordinated an Earth Day cleanup in the Village last year. She presented her materials for planning the event to the Committee. The event had gained momentum through social media. Some businesses got on board with donating supplies and the use of their dumpsters. The Village was supportive of the event, and the Homer Horizon published an article in advance, which generated additional community support. Individuals and families came out to participate in the event. Ms. Sweet is looking for a group or committee to organize an event this year. She is willing to help the Committee plan the event and would like some guidance on how to proceed. More discussion needs to follow as to whether this event is a community event with support from the Village or if it will be a Village event. At the February meeting, the Committee will review the materials and discuss the Committee's involvement in the event. The tentative date for the event is April 27. Ms. Sweet also expressed interest in becoming an Environment Committee member.

Items to discuss for future Earth Day event planning:

- High School Student Involvement and offering Community Service Hours
- Involving Scouts and other community organizations
- Increasing Promotion
- Funding for supplies
- Map for areas of focus
- Volunteer coordination and follow up
- Involving NuWay
- Staff involvement

b) 2019 Plastic-Free Month Discussion

Member Panelli presented a flyer with tips for reducing plastic waste as part of an awareness campaign. The Committee had planned on promoting a plastic-free month in March. After discussion of other activities that were being planned, the awareness month was changed to July which would align with a global plastic-free month challenge. Ideas of how to promote the plastic-free month and educate the public were discussed. The favored activity was to place a paper bag in the Homer Horizon as an insert, similar to the way Menards inserts a bag. The bag would have a message about the plastic-free challenge and could be used to replace a plastic bag. The bag order/advertisement would be placed in this fiscal year, while the activity will occur in the next fiscal year. Community Relations Coordinator Steilen will reach out to Will County to see if they are doing any activities to

promote reduction in plastic use. Member Turrise also recommended reaching out to the Illinois Heritage Corridor Association.

Social media awareness could also feature a photo of a tree with plastic caught in the tree. Other photos could be featured periodically to raise awareness. One tip could be posted on social media each weekday for four days and Friday would be a challenge day. A photo can be taken of the plastic collected at the Earth Day cleanup and used to raise awareness of plastic litter in the Village.

An article would also be submitted to the Homer Horizon highlighting the plastic-free month.

- c) 2018-2019 Environment Committee Events, Activities & Budget Discussion
Activities and items that are to occur in the current fiscal year and the future 2019-2020 fiscal year were discussed. No decisions were made.

Ideas for events included the following:

- Green Restaurant Program – Member Panelli presented a draft program he created for an award program recognizing restaurants for environmentally friendly initiatives.
- Single Use Plastic Awareness Month – discussed under 8.b. was originally proposed for March but changed to July.
- Stargazing – tentative dates are May 10 and September 6. Confirmation is dependent on the astronomy groups. Location is still to be determined. Member Sabo is going to talk to the Township about the possibility of the sports group turning off their lights for those two evenings. A raptor presentation would take place before one event to be called “Raptors in the Park before the Dark.” Crosstown Exotics would be another possibility for a presentation before the other event with a possible title “Creatures of the Night” or “Creepy things that Crawl in the Dark.”
- Big Tree Champion Contest – There was interest and support for continuing this event. Member Turrise is willing to take the lead with support from Member Sabo. The contest would be announced in March, and the deadline for submissions would be April 30. Trustee Sweas will check with the Village attorney on the need for waivers if teen volunteers assist with tree measurements. Further discussion will take place at the February meeting.
- Earth Day Event – discussed under 8.a. is to be scheduled for April 27.

- d) Discussion Regarding Tree Code Presentation

The PowerPoint presentation from October 17 was reviewed along with the first draft for that presentation. The Committee’s consensus was that a new presentation should be prepared with examples of cases that were affected by tree removal and examples of the ordinance on future development. Member Turrise offered to meet with Sue Steilen to assist with the development of the presentation. The Committee will plan for a joint meeting with the Board to take place at the Environment Committee meeting scheduled for March 5.

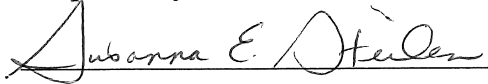
9. New Business.

Member Kudla shared an article from *This Week* magazine which mentioned Homer Glen in an article about "Astrotourism in the Midwest."

10. Adjournment.

Motion by Member Carlson, seconded by Member Kudla to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue Steilen", written over a horizontal line.

Sue Steilen
Community Relations Coordinator