1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Ruben Pazmino.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present at 6:00 p.m. were Co-Chair Ruben Pazmino, members Dale Janssen, Ed Cryer, Russell Knaack, Regina Robinson, Marty Pavlik, John Walters and Mayor George Yukich.

Members Absent: Dan Kenney, Mark Gawron, Bob Kman and Thor Batchelor.

Also Present: Assistant to the Village Manager Matt Walsh, Facilities Manager John Robinson and Community Relations Coordinator Sue Steilen.

4. Approval of Minutes.

   a) October 21, 2019

      Member Janssen made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2019 Committee meeting; seconded by Member Pavlik. The motion passed unanimously.

   b) November 18, 2019

      Member Janssen made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2019 Committee meeting; seconded by Member Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

None.

6. Public Comment.

None.

7. Reports from Co-Chairs.

None.

8. Old Business.
a) Homer for the Holidays Event Recap

Assistant Walsh gave a brief summary of feedback that staff had received about the event, especially in regards to how crowded the tent was. Overall feedback was extremely positive, and residents continued visiting the light display for weeks after the event.

Member Knaack and Manager Robinson suggested that some vendors or tables be removed from the main tent in order to provide more space. There was some discussion about using different heaters. Member Knaack stated that the location for the school choruses was not ideal due to competing noise, and Members Janssen and Pavlik added that a stage or riser should be purchased.

There was additional discussion about alternative locations for the tent; including the tennis courts, the potential cul-de-sac parking lot extension, and the grass adjacent to the electrical building.


a) Bike Homer Event Discussion

Coordinator Steilen introduced the idea and preliminary plans for the Bike Homer event. The event is to highlight the various branches of Heroes Trail and the connections to Heritage Park. The event would not be timed, but it will be similar to a scavenger hunt to incorporate businesses and Township parks that are connected to the trail. The Committee proposed that a punch card or passport book be used to document destinations participants visit. Coordinator Steilen will be creating a map with a matrix of location distances.

The Committee asked about the west extension of Heroes Trail and Manager Robinson responded that it is still planned, however phase I engineering has not been completed. Russell Knaack asked whether the trail markers were installed along the trail and Manager Robinson confirmed that they were. Member Robinson proposed that groups like Girls Scouts set up stands to sell or offer lemonade along the route. Member Walters expressed concern with the trail crossing at 151st Street and said that it was still dangerous. The Committee was in support of the event.

b) Park Facility Rental Policy Discussion

Assistant Walsh presented research on neighboring communities' facility rental policies and mentioned that there has been increased interest in renting or hosting private events at Heritage Park. Manager Robinson described ongoing challenges with maintenance when events are held without Village knowledge and the need to staff certain events.

Member Knaack and Member Pavlik asked whether there was a need for a policy and what the demand was. Mayor Yukich stated that a policy should be in place to hold users responsible and to avoid conflict between renters using an amenity in the park. Member Knaack expressed concern that there was only one venue to
potentially rent in Heritage Park and it would exclude the general public from using it. Assistant Walsh stated that staff will continue to research policies and will bring a more detailed proposal for discussion in the future.

10. Reports and Communications from Staff.

a) Assistant to the Village Manager Update

Assistant Walsh provided details about upcoming meetings that the Village Board was having to discuss Heritage Park and Glenview Walk. Assistant Walsh also mentioned that staff was preparing a proposal for the Committee to consider regarding a tennis class hosted at Heritage Park. Coordinator Steilen added that the sponsorship program was successful and the Village has received a few commitments already.

b) Facilities Manager Update

Manager Robinson reported that staff would be adding several Mutt Mitt stations on Heroes Trail and in Heritage Park that should help with garbage and waste alongside the trails. Manager Robinson added that the sign at Erin Hills Park was destroyed and would be replaced.

11. Committee Member Updates.

Member Robinson proposed that the Village do a kite flying event and shared information with Coordinator Steilen. There is a group that does elaborate kite flying performances that could be scheduled. A few of their events attracted thousands of attendees.

Member Walters raised the idea of relocating the Fireman’s memorial planter from 143rd Street to Heritage Park and repairing it. Mayor Yukich directed staff to acquire the memorial.

Member Walters addressed a memo from Co-Chairs Ruben Pazmino and Beth Rodgers and stated that he disagreed with several points pertaining to the Heritage Park design process, cancellation of the December meeting and tabling of the Glenview Walk Park RFP.

Member Walters stated that the Heritage Park design process is not transparent and needs a committee member involved. Member Walters asked that Co-Chair Rodgers be removed from the Parks and Recreation Committee, Mayor Yukich declined. Mayor Yukich thanked the Committee for their work and stated that he would speak with the Trustees about including the Committee more in decisions.

Member Knaack mentioned his thoughts regarding park prioritization and stated that he hoped the Village could find a way to work with the Township or find additional land for parks in areas that are more populated than Glenview Walk. Member Pavlik discussed the merits of Glenview Walk and stated that the park could be part of a larger plan to add neighborhood parks throughout the Village.
Mayor Yukich proposed meeting with the Glenview Walk HOA to discuss the park. There was additional discussion regarding acquiring an adjacent lot to increase the size of the park.


Member Knaack made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Member Pavlik. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

[Signature]

Matt Walsh
Assistant to the Village Manager