Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
February 18, 2020
(Special Meeting)

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 6:03 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, Randy Juras, Joe Turrise and Staff Member Melissa King.

   Absent: Bob Moses, Gary White, Nancy Carlson, Andy Panelli. Also not in attendance were advisors John Lobick - Advisor and Cathy Rehr.

4. **Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.**

   No amendments were made.

5. **Public Comment.**

   No public comments were made

6. **Old Business.**

   a) **Lighting Upgrades and Lighting Ordinance Clarification – ComEd Energy Efficiency**

   Co-Chair Sweas indicated that the original motion on lighting from the February 4, 2020 Environment Committee meeting covered all types of lighting in all Districts and that it might be a good idea to revise that motion and focus on just street lighting. Member Turrise and Member Juras both agreed that it was important to focus on the street lighting.

   Member Sabo explained that the Village is currently seeking grant funds for lighting retrofits. The Environment Committee had been working on a street lighting retrofit project for over eight (8) years that included retrofits of the post top and cobra head street lights. The next step was to retrofit 14" drop lenses in some of the subdivision. The grant funding would cover this next step and so it was appropriate for the item to come before the Committee. The Committee is not opposed to LED street lighting so long as it is not glaring and it is compliant with the ordinance, i.e. a 70 watt HPS or equivalent.

   Member Rataj mentioned that she remembered from the previous staff presentation that there are still post tops and cobra that need to be retrofitted. Member Sabo was under the impression that all of the post tops and cobra heads on Village streets had been retrofitted.

   Co-Chair Sweas mentioned that she and Member Sabo had a conference call with Dark Sky Partners, LLC. The last motion was dependent upon what the Dark Sky Partners would recommend. The Dark Sky Partners were clear that the 3,000k LED is not an
equivalent to a 70 watt HPS and that if the Village was going to replace just the street lighting that the equivalent to a 70 watt HPS would be the PC Amber LED.

Member Juras discussed that in the past when the Committee was working on this project, there was no information in the industry on PC Amber or Narrow band Amber lights, those types of lights simply did not exist in the mainstream industry yet. As the Village moves forward with other lighting projects/updates to the ordinance that new information/technology in the industry should be taken into account. Member Juras agreed that the Committee should just tackle what is before them right now.

Co-chair Sweas indicated that the Dark Sky Partners would be willing to assist the Village in getting the right type of PC Amber LEDs. Co-Chair Sweas and Member Juras discussed the group Design Light Consortium. The discussion included who they are and their function of approving fixtures for the Comed Grant Program. Member Turrise asked about what the maintenance costs would be long-term with an integrated fixture. Co-Chair Sweas indicated that most LEDs do last 10-15 years. Member Juras described the difference between the 2-year lifespan of an HPS vs. a 10-year lifespan for LEDs. Members discussed the benefits and costs differential between keeping the HPS with continued maintenance versus the retrofit/replacement costs to upgrade to LEDs. Co-Chair Pazmino brought up the discussion of safety in parking lots that is of importance to business owners and indicated that the Village Staff is looking at the long-term investment. Staff Member King reminded members that John Robinson and Mike Salamowicz did mention during the original staff presentation in January that there was concern about HPS fixtures being phased out in the industry. Member Sabo indicated that no statistics have been included and that there are still millions of HPS lights around the country and feels it is unlikely that the manufacturers will get rid of these fixtures all together.

Member Sabo recommended to discuss the change to the original motion. Members put on record they still want to recommend the PC Amber, based on the Dark Sky Partners recommendation.

Members discussed the test lights that will be installed along the ring road. Test lights were ordered as a 2,200K white LED. Member Turrise thought that we were going to get an amber fixture. Neither a white or amber 2,200K is approved for the Comed Grant Program. Reminder that there was no motion on the test light selection.

Co-chair Sweas recommended the updated motion to be “the Environment Committee recommends that PC Amber LEDs be used for all street lighting per the recommendation of Dark Sky Partners, LLC”. So this would update the motion and pull back from the “all lighting”/everywhere else just specify the PC Amber for the street lights.

A motion to approve was made by Member Turrise and seconded by Member Rataj. Co-Chair Pazmino voted nay. The motion passed 5-1.

Co-Chair Sweas recommended that all members should go see the light that was replaced on Stone Oak Way to see what a 3,000K LED looks like compared to an HPS fixture. Member Sabo indicted that LEDs can be very unsafe due to the increased glare.
Member Sabo indicated that the LED fixtures do not comply with the ordinance. The lighting brochure was shared by Member Sabo and she asked if a pdf version of this brochure had been uploaded to the website. Member Sabo discussed the history of how the Homer Glen ordinance was developed and how it had been based off of the Flagstaff ordinance. The current ordinance does indicate that the levels of the lighting in the Village should be 3,000K or less but does not give any specifics about LED lighting. Member Sabo indicated that based on research there is a good idea that the lighting temperature (CCT) will not be the way in which LEDs are measured in the future. There was general discussion amongst the members regarding the use of CCT/Color Temperature.

During a conference call between Co-Chair Sweas, Member Sabo and the Dark Sky Partners, the Dark Sky Partners, LLC made a recommendation to clarify Paragraph C of Village Code Section 79-56. Co-Chair Sweas presented an updated motion based upon the recommendation from Dark Sky Partners, “the Environment Committee is in agreement with Dark Sky Partners’ interpretation that Village Code 79-56 Paragraph C pertains to all street lighting at 70 watt HPS or equivalent and that Paragraph D pertains to all other light sources.”

A motion to approve was made by Member Rataj and seconded by Member Turrise. Co-Chair Pazmino wanted to verify this is only clarification and does not change the code in anyway. The motion passed unanimously.

b) EC Newsletter DRAFT

Members discussed feedback for the Environment Committee page in the Newsletter. Comments were generally formatting changes. Co-Chair Pazmino recommended to add the tagline to the top of the page as, “Homer Green”.

7. Announcements/Committee Member Communication

Member Sabo talked about the incorporation of Homer Glen as a Village. She requested the original marketing VHS tape be converted to a digital copy or a DVD and available on the website. She also talked about an article that was written and published Chicago Wilderness magazine right after incorporation; she requested that this be added to the website, as well. Members discussed the importance of holding onto the environmental heritage of Homer Glen.

8. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn made by Member Rataj; seconded by Member Turrise. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melissa W. King
Senior Planner/Project Manager