Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
March 3, 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 Co-Chair Ruben Pazmino.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Members present were Co-Chair Trustee Sharon Sweas, Co-Chair Ruben Pazmino, Margaret Sabo, Cynthia Rataj, Randy Juris, Joe Turrisie, Andy Panelli and Staff Member Melissa King. John Lobick - Advisor was also in attendance.

Nancy Carlson arrived at 6:35pm.

Absent: Bob Moses, Gary White and Cathy Rehr - Advisor.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

Co-Chair Sweas made a motion to remove the February 18, 2020 special meeting minutes from the agenda. The minutes for that meeting will be approved at the next meeting. Member Turrisie seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The agenda was approved.

5. Minutes.

   a) February 4, 2020
   Member Rataj made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2020 meeting; Member Turrisie seconded the motion. No Discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting minutes were approved.

6. Public Comment.

No public comments were made.

7. Old Business.

   a) Dark Sky Commercial Lighting Brochure
   Members discussed the mockup. Member Sabo requested that “Don’t make an expensive mistake” should be larger and bolder and in black. Member Turrisie recommended to add “3rd in the United States”. Member Panelli recommended the United States statistic versus the worldwide statistic should be included. Member Sabo thinks both statistics should be included if they can fit. Co-Chair Pazmino and Member Panelli recommended to put “Don’t make an expensive mistake” on the front of the postcard. Co-Chair Pazmino recommended making the postcard even more simplified. Member Turrisie and Co-Chair Pazmino recommended using yellow or red on front of the postcard to really draw attention. Member Panelli recommended including the most important information for businesses. Members discussed the general next steps. Staff will make the final changes and
circulate for final approval. There was a consensus to move forward with the project but no motion.

b) 2020 Environment Committee Events and Activities

- **Stargazing**
  Rescheduled to May 8th. There is a full moon around this time. Co-Chair Sweas indicated that they will get back to the Village about what else will be in the night sky at that time. Village to include the train at the event. Still working on finding an additional activity. Member Turrise mentioned that the critter event we had in 2019 was very good.

- **Earth Day 2020, 50th Anniversary**
  Co-Chair Sweas asked staff to verify the time is still 10am to 2pm. See below for an overview of activities:
  > Date: April 25th
  > Time: 10am-2pm
  > Kite Making Kits/Kite Demonstration, (100 small kits)
  > Larger kites for sale
  > Roger Ross, Village Arborist, to do a demonstration on pruning
  > Planting Seeds/Make and Take, Checking with Bren Mar and a Scout Group
  > Environment Info on Table
  > Food Truck/Healthy, 1 or 2
  > Tree Saplings, 150 free have been ordered
  > Library Craft Fair

Member Turrise asked how the publicity will be handled. Co-Chair Sweas indicated that it will be pushed on social media and maybe we could post a few signs. Member Panelli asked if it would be beneficial combine our efforts more with the Library. Co-Chair Sweas reminded the members that there will be a couple tables available to put information; maybe include some print-outs of the plastic flyer; Member Panelli mentioned that we’ll need to get pricing, sometimes it is more cost effective to print in larger quantities. Member Rataj recommended having copies of Big Tree and Community & Nature in Harmony Awards Applications and also maybe pictures of past winners. Members Sabo and Rataj recommended printing the trash can on regular paper to save money. Co-Chair Sweas asked if there would be any interest in ordering bags. Member Panelli offered the option of a reusable canvas shopping bag with the Homer Glen logo. Co-Chair Sweas asked who would be willing to volunteer. Member Rataj, Member Juras, Member Sabo, Member Turrise, Co-Chairs Sweas and Pazmino indicated they would be at the event. Staff asked how many tables the committee would need; member consensus was to have 3 tables. Staff indicated the Library craft fair would be there from 9:30am to 2pm. Member Turrise asked if we could have some information/handout about how to measure the trees for the Big Tree Contest. Member Sabo asked if there would be any additional main activities besides the kite demonstration. Other recommendations were a paint night type of event, pony rides, a pet
parade, tree decorating or a people parade. Member Rataj recommended a kiddy bike parade. Co-Chair Sweas and staff member King indicated that a kiddy parade was already planned for Bike Homer. Member Turrise recommended a sheep shearing event and a hawk flying event; members were generally interested in this idea.

Secondary conversation between members regarding having an educational bat activity for the stargazing event. Member were in consensus to move forward with that idea.

- **Big Tree**
  Original deadline set for April 30. Co-Chair Sweas asked if the deadline should be extended further after the Earth Day Celebration. Member Turrise recommended to keep it early. There was a consensus to extend the deadline for applications to May 10, 2020.

- **Community and Nature in Harmony**
  Original deadline set for July 15. Member Turrise reminded the group that the gardens were at the end of their prime. There was a consensus to push up the deadline for applications to July 1, 2020.

9. **New Business.**
   a) Reminder of the upcoming Village Branding Meeting
   b) Co-Chair Pazmino recommended planting a tree at Glenview Walk. The request came from the Parks Committee. Member Carlson motioned to approve a tree planting at Glenview Walk Estates Park. Member Rataj seconded the motion. No Discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Announcements/Committee Member Communication**
    a) Member Panelli passed around some additional information regarding plastics free month and is recommended the Village include some additional information. Below is a list of the big ideas:

    - Address problems with aspirational recycling.
    - Include information about what to recycle and also what to avoid
    - Highlight how to be more effective at recycling.
    - Include a “when in doubt, throw it out” message
    - Information on pages would need to be validated with the local waste management companies

Member Panelli discussed what we did last year for July that included 1 published article prior to the printing of the trash can. He recommended we add an additional article the week before the first article.

Member Panelli also recommended having a contest that highlights “what creative thing are you doing to reduce plastic waste?” Possibility of the winner getting a year of free recycling or a credit back on the bill. There would be a possibility of running
another article related to the contest and really start to get the whole month of July full of activities.

Member Panelli has proposed the following schedule in order to hit the targets for the above recommendations:

- April 7 – talk to recycling companies
- April 14 – finalize decisions on contest; start discussion with Homer Horizon on articles; begin work on draft artwork
- May - Committee reviews artwork
- May 21 – final approval of artwork and send off to the printer
- June 11 – printed and ready to ship to Wisconsin so they have it within 2 weeks in order to have it ready as an insert

Member Juras and Member Turrise shared comments on recycling and why it’s important to separate.

There was a consensus among members to move forward with the recommendations from Member Panelli.

b) Member Sabo shared information regarding lasagna composting.

c) Member Carlson shared information from the event she attended that was put on by the Will County Soil and Water Conservation.

11. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn made by Member Turrise; seconded by Member Juras. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

[Signature]

Melissa W. King,
Senior Planner/Project Manager