

Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
March 5, 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, Nancy Carlson, Randy Juras, Bob Moses, Andy Panelli, Cynthia Rataj, Margaret Sabo, Joe Turrise, Gary White.

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

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

None.

5. Minutes.

a) January 8, 2019

Member Juras made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting; seconded by Member Panelli. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment.

None.

7. Announcements/Committee Members Communication

Announcements from Trustee Sweas:

Will County Division of Transportation will have an Open House meeting to learn about the proposed improvements to 143rd Street between Lemont Road and Bell Road on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Kathy Kudla submitted a letter to Trustee Sweas notifying the Village that she would be resigning from the Environment Committee as of February 28, 2019. Committee members expressed interest in finding a special way to acknowledge Kudla's service and contributions to the Committee. Member Sabo suggested a letter. Member Turrise suggested a plaque. No decision was made.

Rachel Sweet has scheduled the following meetings for anyone that would like to help coordinate the Community Clean-Up Day:

March 26 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

April 5 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

April 25 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

All meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Member Sabo read a letter from former member Neeloo Bhatti-McAndrew, who is now living in North Carolina.

Member Sabo passed around some items she obtained in New Zealand to replace plastic. The restaurants use disposable wooden utensils instead of plastic. The other item was a small tag like a door hanger that one could place on their door or inside their car to remind them to bring their cloth bags to the store. Member Turrise suggested the small door hanger to be used as an insert in the Homer Horizon instead of paper bag.

Member Juras will be attending the Will County Regional Sustainable Network meeting on future renewable energy products on March 19.

Member White presented a table tent that said, “say no to straws,” which could be something to distribute during the Plastic Free promotion month.

Member Moses brought a compostable paper straw he discovered at restaurants while he was in Florida. Plastic straws are banned on Sanibel Island. This straw is an alternative to plastic straws. The straw was supplied by Karat Earth/Dade Paper.

8. Old Business.

a) 2019 Plastic-Free Month Discussion

Member Panelli reported that inserting a paper bag in the Homer Horizon would be too costly, at approximately \$3,000. Another way to get the plastic free message across would be to consider the following options:

- 1) An 8x11, two-sided insert printed and stuffed with cost \$920.
- 2) A full-page color ad with cost \$756.
- 3) Both items one and two combined would cost \$1,676.

Member Panelli will also check on pricing for a tag/door hanger insert.

b) 2019 Earth Day Cleanup Event

Rachel Sweet was unable to attend the meeting. The date has been confirmed for April 27, 2019. Community service hours will be available. Locations on the Heroes Trail will be identified for cleanup activities. Trustee Sweas suggested purchasing a few grabbers to have available at designated sites. Member Turrise suggested having yellow vests available. Ms. Sweet has a meeting scheduled for March 26 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will include community volunteers. Environment Committee members were encouraged to attend also.

The Village Environment Committee will provide posters and fliers. Sue Steilen will post the event on the Village Facebook page and create a news flash for the website. Supplies will be available at an information table the day of the event and at the Village Hall. Member Panelli suggested taking a look at areas that need cleaning up. He will look at the trails on South Bell Road and Hadley. Committee

members were instructed to look for problem areas that need cleaning. The flyer will need to include the times, a phone number to call for information, and a location where people can gather on the Clean-up Day. Sue Steilen will consult with John Robinson for pick up locations of trash bags. Member Panelli suggested having a tent canopy where the information table is set up. Member Rataj suggested adding the word "trail" to the flyer as an additional place to pick up litter.

c) 2018-2019 Environment Committee Events, Activities & Budget Discussion

a. Big Tree Contest

Committee consensus was to keep the contest the same as last year. Phone number and email address is to be added to the application form. Tree circumference is to be measured at fifty-four (54) inches. The list of winners from 2018 is to be added to the application form. The submission deadline will be April 30, 2019. Member Sabo will prepare the calendar notice for the Homer Horizon. Sue Steilen will prepare a media release.

b. Stargazing

Trustee Sweas has communicated with the sports group about not using lights on May 10, and they did not see a problem. She is going to talk to the Township officials to make sure the lights can be turned off on time. Trustee Sweas has invited the astronomers to come out to Heritage Park and view the site. Member Carlson will coordinate bringing a hawk to the event. The location needs to be confirmed in order to update the signage and create publicity materials.

c. Community and Nature in Harmony Awards

The deadline for the Community and Nature in Harmony Awards will remain the same and the program will be announced in May.

d. Environment Fund

No discussion took place.

The schedule of planned activities is as follows:

March – Announce Big Tree Contest

April – Assist with the Community Clean-up Day

May – Announce Community and Nature in Harmony Award contest.

Stargazing on May 6 will include a hawk program.

June – Prepare materials for July's Plastic Free month.

July – Plastic Free Month

Evaluate Community and Nature in Harmony Awards nominations.

August – Recognize Big Tree Contest winners.

September – Stargazing on September 6 will include a Crosstown Exotics program.

Community and Nature in Harmony Awards recognition.

Member Panelli requested that Sue Steilen put together action items from his list for putting together a green restaurants program. No date has been decided when this will move forward. The fall may be the time to work on this program.

d) Discussion Regarding Tree Code Presentation

Sue Steilen reviewed the power point slides for the Tree Code presentation. Member Panelli asked for the date when the data was prepared, and Steilen will check. Member Panelli also asked to include a remark about when trees are removed that it not only decreases the homeowner's property value, but it also decreases the neighboring property values. Sue Steilen will create a comparison of when other ordinances apply, e.g. five acres, one acre, etc. Are there any with "any buildable lot." Chief Building Official Joe Baber is also looking at alternate wording and enforcement wording for the ordinance. Steilen to remove reforestation wording on slides from previous presentation. Remove slide with green chart. Have chart on hand to show how old a tree is based on size.

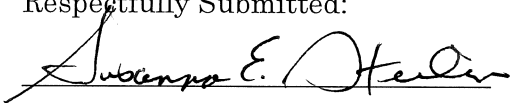
9. New Business.

None.

10. Adjournment.

Motion by Member Carlson, seconded by Member Juras to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

Sue Steilen
Community Relations Coordinator