

Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
May 7, 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 6:33 p.m. by Member Margaret Sabo.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Members present at 6:33 p.m. were Nancy Carlson, Randy Juras, Andy Panelli, Cynthia Rataj, Margaret Sabo, Joe Turrise and Gary White. Trustee Sharon Sweas arrived at 8:07 p.m.

Also Present: Community Relations Coordinator Sue Steilen.

Absent: Bob Moses.

Guest: Roman Okrei.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

Member Juras made a motion to add Bees and Chickens to 7.c.d.; seconded by Cynthia Rataj. Motion passed unanimously

5. Minutes.

a) April 9, 2019

Member Panelli made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2019 meeting as amended; seconded by Member Turrise. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 7.c., add to the end of the first paragraph: "There is also a one-time die-cut

Item 9, first paragraph, second sentence should read: "The goal is to raise money to fund a new event space.

6. Public Comment.

Roman Okrei, resident, stated that he and his son frequently pick up garbage on the side of the roads in the Village. He would like to see a program in place to address the issue of littering in the Village and made the following suggestions:

1. Offer community service hours to students to pick up trash.
2. Set aside a fund to pay individuals an amount per bag of trash collected along the roadway.
3. Have schools adopt a section of roadway.

Member Turrise made a motion to move New Business after Public Comment and discuss the removal of litter from the roadways; seconded by Andy Panelli.

New Business

Member Panelli expressed concern about having kids picking up garbage too close to the street. He suggested asking businesses to sponsor a section of roadway or to fund someone to clean a section. The Committee members liked the idea of an adoption program and possibly extending it to the parks. Member Sabo asked to have further discussion of this topic for more ideas and how an adoption program could be developed and recommended. Member Rataj also suggested adding stories of how individuals help clean the roadways to the Homer Glen Cares Facebook page.

7. Old Business.

a) Arbor Day Tree Planting Event

Village Arborist Roger Ross has offered to donate a hickory tree to the Village for planting in honor of Arbor Day. He has also offered to demonstrate to the public how to prune or plant a tree as part of an Arbor Day event. To qualify for Tree City USA status, the Village needs to plan an event in recognition of Arbor Day. Suggestions for a tree planting location in conjunction with an Arbor Day event included:

1. Evlyn's Gate North Park to replace damaged trees in the parkway.
2. A school for a larger audience and student participation, e.g. Schilling.
3. Return to Goodings Grove and have scouts put mulch around trees that had been previously planted.
4. Heritage Park

The committee decided by hand vote to have the event at Evlyn's Gate North. Ideas suggested for the event include a tree giveaway, a food truck, or a touch-a-truck. The event will be called Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration. The date is to be set. The tree planting will depend on Roger Ross and Rick Gomez, Instant Shade. The rain has caused difficulty with ground conditions for removing and planting the tree.

b) 2019 Plastic-Free Month Discussion

Member Panelli suggested placing an article or ad in the Homer Horizon the week of the insert. The information should be placed in the paper the last week of June, so people can prepare for July. Member Panelli will send a draft to Committee members, so approval can be voted on at the next meeting. A half-page ad will cost \$378, and the insert of the die-cut trash can will cost \$2,377.

c) 2019 Environment Committee Events, Activities

a. Big Tree Contest

Five entries have been submitted. Member Sabo and Member Turrise will contact the residents and measure the trees. The presentation for winners will take place in August.

b. Stargazing

The Stargazing event will be held at Heritage Park on May 10. This will be the first time the event has been held at the park. Signs have been posted and flyers have been distributed to the schools. Publicity has been posted on Facebook and in the calendar section of the Horizon.

Member Carlson will bring Sky, the red-tailed hawk, from Pilcher Park Nature Center for a pre-stargazing activity to be held in the Community Room. Lighting literature and the bulletin board prepared for lighting education will be placed on a table. Light refreshments will be provided. The astronomers will be at a location on the ring road, Heritage Circle. It will be a distance to walk from the Community Room. Attendees that come to the Community Room will need to drive to the Stargazing site.

Plastic will need to be placed on the floor by the table where Sky is located. The room will be set up with a table and chair for Member Carlson. Another table for literature and refreshments will be set up. Refreshments will include hot cocoa and cookies. Volunteers for the evening will be Nancy Carlson, Randy Juras, Cynthia Rataj, Sue Steilen, Sharon Sweas, Joe Turrise, and Gary White.

c. Reschedule 2019 Earth Day Cleanup Event

The Earth Day Cleanup Event was cancelled due to rain. The suggested reschedule date is September 28 to coincide with Homer Glen Lands Day. The poster will need to be revised with the new date. The leader for planning of this event needs to be determined. Discussion will continue next month.

d. Chickens and Bees

This item was to be discussed with John Lobick present because he had expressed concerns about the size of the lot that would be allowed to have chickens and bees. The Board is looking at direction for the requirement for lot sized. Since Mr. Lobick was not at the meeting, discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

d) Review of Tree Code Presentation

Committee members expressed disappointment in the overwhelming number of individuals at the Committee of the Whole workshop. The Committee had hoped to have a conversation with Board members, and the attendance seemed heavily weighted by Village Staff members. There were only three Environment Committee members in attendance. The meeting was video recorded. Points to continue discussing include:

- 1) Bring down acreage
- 2) Permits – additional staff required
- 3) Restitution only vs. reforestation
- 4) Buildable lot definition
- 5) Enforcement

Trustee Sweas will speak with the new Village Manager to get guidance as to how to proceed.

8. New Business

Moved to the end of Item 6.

9. Announcements/Committee Members Communication

Member White stated that the Village is planning a bicycle path on the north side of Heritage Park. His property would be adjacent to the new path. He was never informed and is concerned about the impact on the wetland and flood plain. He would also like a fence installed along his property. The item is to be voted on May 8. He questioned where the transparency was in the planning for this project.

Member Panelli will be attending an environmental lobbying day in Springfield with the Illinois Environmental Council and Sierra Club.

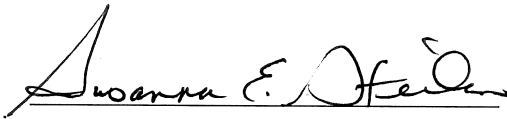
Member Rataj will email old landscape ordinance drafts to Committee members.

Member Sabo was in Spain and Italy recently and impressed by the lighting. She also expressed concerns about plans for the gas station proposed for the corner of 159th Street and Gougar Road. She is especially concerned about the proposed 16 foot sign.

10. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn made by Member White; seconded by Member Panelli. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Sue Steilen
Community Relations Coordinator