Parks & Recreation Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
June 15, 2020

Village of Homer Glen
14240 W 151st Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491
Village Board Room
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, Co-Chair Beth Rodgers, members Dale Janssen, Ed Cryer, Regina Robinson, Marty Pavlik, Dan Kenney and Russell Knaack.

Member Kenney arrived at 6:15 p.m. and Member Bob Kman arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Communications and Recreation Services Coordinator Amy Blank, Facilities Manager John Robinson and Assistant to the Village Manager Matt Walsh.

4. Approval of Minutes.

   a) February 24, 2020

   Member Cryer made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2020 Committee meeting; seconded by Member Pavlik. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

There were no amendments.

6. Public Comment.

None.

7. Reports from Co-Chairs.

   Co-Chair Pazmino thanked former members Mark Gawron and John Walters for their contributions to the Committee and special events.

8. Old Business.

   a) Heritage Park Disc Golf Course Discussion
Assistant Walsh presented the proposed layouts for the Heritage Park Disc Golf Course and explained that the Village Board would be voting on the layouts at the June 24 Village Board Meeting. Facilities Manager Robinson expressed concerns about the installation of the baskets and the eventual need to reconfigure the course. Member Robinson expressed concerns about safety and disc golf players interfering with other users of the park.

Member Knaack suggested that the baskets be installed in crushed limestone to make removal easier. Co-Chair Rodgers explained that Thor Batchelor's expectation has always been that the course would have to change for future development of the park. Member Cryer asked if the 319 grant area could be used at all, and it was explained that the 319 area could not be used for active recreation for ten years. Member Pavlik proposed scheduling the park so that the disc golf course would not interfere with open play or other uses of the park.

Member Kenney stated that he believes the baskets are relatively subtle especially in the context of the large park. Member Knaack stated that the Village has the baskets and should use them, and respond to the use and challenges as it comes. Co-Chair Pazmino asked for a consensus from the Committee about the layouts. Member Robinson and Co-Chair Pazmino preferred the nine-hole layout, while the other seven members preferred 18 holes. Assistant Walsh stated that the recommendation would be brought forward to the Village Board.


a) Motion to Recommend Approval of Tennis Clinic Program

Coordinator Blank introduced a proposed tennis clinic program based on feedback from the Committee back at February’s meeting. Lockport High School Assistant Coach Wendy Hillock is a resident and has volunteered to teach the clinic. Co-Chair Rodgers expressed concern about not being able to serve many residents if the registration is limited due to social distancing requirements, and stated that there should be two sessions per week.

There was some discussion about breaking the sessions into groups to accommodate more participants, and allowing participants to attend multiple sessions. Coordinator Blank asked what the next step was for approval, and Co-Chair Rodgers directed staff to discuss with Village Manager Friling. The Committee was in favor of pursuing the program.

b) Motion to Recommend Approval of in-person Chalk it Up! Event Plan

Coordinator Blank provided some background on the planning for Chalk it Up! The event will be held at Heritage Park, and participants will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions. There will not be any other side games, and judging will happen after the event concludes. Participants are not expected to stay for the duration of the event. There was some discussion over the judging process and how to award entries.
The discussion turned to whether there would be food at the event. There were concerns about following COVID-19 guidelines. Coordinator Blank shared that many farmer’s markets are not allowing food at the event. After the discussion, the direction was for staff to check with the health department on guidelines, and to not put too much planning in to it, as the guidelines could change prior to the event.

The Committee was unanimously in favor of holding the event in person.

c) Discussion of Special Events

Coordinator Blank shared a variety of ideas that staff has been considering for COVID-19 friendly events.

- Bike Homer Bingo: A virtual event where residents accomplish biking-related events and enter a contest.
- Market in the Glen: Staff decided to cancel the event due to capacity and event restrictions.
- Trunk or Treat: Coordinator Blank proposed a revised event where families could drive through Heritage Circle and staff or volunteers can hand candy to kids as they drive by. The Committee expressed concerns about the amount of people that could show up, based on the success of last year’s event. The Committee will revisit the idea in August.
- Homer for the Holidays: Coordinator Blank stated that the planning for the event would be starting sooner rather than later.
- Field Day/Water Play Days: These would be smaller scale events with obstacle courses, games, slip n’ slide. The Committee expressed concern with being able to serve many kids due to restrictions.
- Bags Tournament: Adult-only event with a registration fee. The Committee liked the idea and there was discussion about the layout and number of bags sets needed. Concerns about attracting a large crowd were discussed.

Co-Chair Rodgers asked staff to provide an updated budget for special events with projected spending.

10. Reports and Communications from Staff.

a) Assistant to the Village Manager Update

Assistant Walsh reported that the Village Board approved the award of a contract for the Active Core Swings project. Member Robinson asked if the swings were accessible.

Assistant Walsh also reported that the Glenview Walk playground was scheduled to be completed in September, and that equipment should be arriving at the site in August. Member Robinson asked if the park would be named after the subdivision. There was some discussion over whether the park should be named after the subdivision for navigation purposes and whether the park seems like a subdivision-owned site. This led to discussion about signage and promotion of parks to clarify that parks are open to the public.
b) Facilities Manager Update

Manager Robinson reported that the heavy rain and short staffing led to a slow start to the season in terms of special projects.

Manager Robinson explained some of the ongoing challenges with the walking path at Stonebridge Park.

11. Committee Member Updates.

No updates were given.


Member Kman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Member Cryer. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

[Signature]

Matt Walsh
Assistant to the Village Manager