

Environment Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
August 6, 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 Trustee Sharon Sweas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**3. Roll Call.**

Members present at 6:33 p.m. were Trustee Sharon Sweas, Randy Juras, Bob Moses, Andy Panelli, Margaret Sabo, and Joe Turrise.

Also Present: Senior Planner Melissa King and John Lobick, History Advisor

Absent: Nancy Carlson, Trustee Ruben Pazmino, Cynthia Rataj, and Gary White.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

No amendments were made.

5. Minutes.

a) June 4, 2019

Member Panelli made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2019 meeting; Member Juras seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting minutes were approved.

b) July 2, 2019

Member Panelli made a motion to approve the minutes from July 2, 2019; Member Juras seconded the motion. Member Panelli requested that reference to algae blooms on page three and nine be removed. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes were approved as corrected.

6. Public Comment.

A student of a public administration class was there to observe the meeting.

7. Old Business.

a) 2019 Environment Committee Events and Activities

1. Arbor Day Tree Planting

Roger Ross has a hickory tree to donate. A tree spade is needed to transplant the tree. The planting to take place at Evelyn's Gate North Park needs to be scheduled. Trustee Sweas will contact Facilities Manager John Robinson about identifying the specific location and date for tree planting.

2. Reschedule 2019 Earth Day Cleanup Event

Trustee Sweas spoke with Rachel Sweet, and she is willing to assist the Committee in planning the Cleanup Day. The event will take place on Saturday, September 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Community Relations Coordinator Sue Steilen has received permission from Jewel to set up an information table in their parking lot.

Other locations identified to have a station with supplies is Goodings Grove Park and the trails behind Founders Crossing and Culver Park. Member Rataj has suggested a scavenger hunt to can encourage people to search for trash. An item such as a Starbucks cup could have a coupon for a prize and advertised to be found near a trail. Rachel Sweet collected prizes from a few businesses that can be used for individuals that collected the most garbage or best photo of a site cleanup before and after.

3. Big Tree Contest Presentation

The letters have been mailed to the Big Tree Contest winners. The award certificates will be presented at the Village Board meeting on August 28, 2019.

4. Community and Nature in Harmony Awards

Trustee Sweas, Member Turrise, Senior Planner King, and Community Relations Coordinator Steilen viewed the properties nominated for an award. King presented photos of the nominated properties on the display monitor. Nominee Roman Okrei informed King that he does not want to receive any recognition or award for his efforts to pick up garbage along the roadway. Member Turrise suggested that the Mayor send Mr. Okrei a letter thanking him for his efforts. The Community and Nature in Harmony Awards will be presented at the Village Board meeting on September 25, 2019.

8. New Business

a) Homer Glen Lands Day

At the July meeting, resident Roman Okrei offered suggestions to the Committee for encouraging other residents to do the same. Member Sabo requested that this subject be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting. Member Turrise suggested that the Village place signs on the roadways that say "Please keep the Roadways Clean." Trustee Sweas suggested that staff member Amy Blank develop some campaign promotions for social media to keep the roadways clean.

A list of tasks for the Community Cleanup Day event created by Sue Steilen was reviewed. Committee members were asked how they would help. Trustee Sweas stated that eight adults would be needed to man the stations. Two Committee members are not available that day. The tasks will be assigned at the meeting on September 3.

b) Stargazing

Stargazing will take place on September 6. The signs, flyers, and posters will be updated with the new dates and times. Sunset will be around 8:20 p.m. The Committee consensus was to start the event with the Crosstown Exotics display in the Community Room at 7:30 p.m. The Crosstown Exotics display will cost \$350. Light refreshments and cookies will be available. The telescopes will be set up closer to the Community Room, so attendees won't have to walk so far. Trustee Sweas, Member Panelli, and Member Turrise, will be there. Member Juras will try to make it. Member Juras suggested that the astronomy group do a presentation some time at a future stargazing event. Member Turrise asked if there is any way for the astronomers to project what they see on a screen in the Community Room. Trustee Sweas will discuss these ideas with the astronomers.

Member Panelli suggested inviting some tree scientists from the Morton Arboretum to make a presentation at a Board meeting about the benefits of trees. Trustee Sweas suggested this may be beneficial at a Board workshop. Member Panelli has volunteered to reach out to the scientists for information and assist with getting a presentation for the Village.

9. Announcements/Committee Members Communication

Member Moses presented an article about how trees help decrease climate change.

Member Juras reported the CARE group is concerned about a proposed development by Hanson Material Services in Romeoville that will impact a rare dolomite prairie. Member Sabo suggested writing letters to legislators. Member Juras will share legislator contact information with the Committee. He asked that the Board pass resolution opposing the development. Trustee Sweas suggested members send letters to the editor of the newspapers and the Patch to educate others on their concerns with the project. Members can also email local elected officials about their concerns. In all communication, members should be writing as individuals and not refer to the Village. She will talk to the Village Manager about options the Village can take.

Advisor Lobick recommended members drive by a house at 522 W. Third Street in Lockport to observe a solar installation. The installation is funded through a program with the State at no cost to the homeowner. He also recommended a book, "Overrun," by Andrew Reeves, which is about the Asian carp problem.

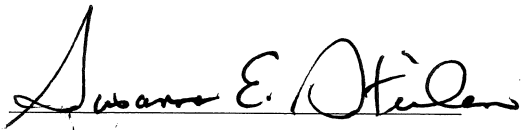
Member Panelli reported that a presentation of the documentary "The Human Element," which is about climate change, will be at St. Elizabeth Seton in Orland Hills on September 10.

Member Sabo reported that the Township's Junk in Your Trunk event has been cancelled.

10. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn made by Member Sabo; seconded by Member Moses. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Sue Steilen
Community Relations Coordinator