Village of Homer Glen

14240 W. 151st Street
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

August 26, 2020

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting

Village Board Room
14240 W. 151st Street
Homer Glen, IL 60491
A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on August 26, 2020 by Mayor Yukich at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Board Room, 14240 W. 151st Street, Homer Glen.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present were Mayor Yukich, Trustees Ruben Pazmino, Beth Rodgers, Sharon Sweas, Broque Backal, Keith Gray, and Carlo Caprio. Also present on behalf of the Village were Village Clerk Christina Neitzke-Troike, Village Attorney Eric Hanson, Assistant to the Village Manager Matt Walsh, Chief Building Official Joe Baber, Economic Development Director Janie Patch, Director of Planning & Zoning Vijay Gadde, and Village Manager Karie Friling. *A quorum was established.*

D. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA -

Trustee Rodgers motioned to remand J.3 back to the Planning Commission, second by Trustee Sweas.

*Voice Vote:*
Ayes: (6) Trustees Sweas, Rodgers, Caprio, Backal, Gray, and Pazmino
Nays: (0)
Abstained: (0)
Absent: (0)
*The motion carried*

E. RECOGNITION -

Eileen Solt, - Winner of the Plastic Free July Contest.

Mayor Yukich presented Ms. Solt with the Plastic Free July Contest Award.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020 Village Board Meeting.

Trustee Gray motioned to approve the minutes, second by Trustee Backal.

*Voice Vote:*
Ayes: (6) Trustees Sweas, Rodgers, Caprio, Backal, Gray, and Pazmino
Nays: (0)
Abstained: (0)
Absent: (0)
*The motion carried*
2. Motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2020 Village Board Meeting.

Trustee Caprio motioned to approve the minutes, second by Trustee Pazmino.

*Voice Vote:*
Ayes: (6) Trustees Sweas, Rodgers, Caprio, Backal, Gray, and Pazmino
Nays: (0)
Abstained: (0)
Absent: (0)
The motion carried

G. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND OTHER OFFICERS

1) Mayor’s Report–

Mayor Yukich read a Statement Concerning Resurgence Mitigations Requirements for Region 7

Since last Spring, the Village of Homer Glen has been supportive of the State of Illinois’ guidance and assistance as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have listened and followed the guidelines, which were grounded in fairness and concern for the public health system. We implemented these guidelines, both internally at the Village but also throughout our community. Our community worked together to adapt to our “new normal” and to take care of each other. While we might not have all agreed with everything - we still came together and implemented and supported the Governor’s Executive Orders.

Unfortunately, the Village was notified this week of additional COVID-19 mitigation efforts to take effect in Region 7 on August 26. Region 7 includes both Will and Kankakee Counties. This was due to the region’s positivity rate exceeding 8% for three consecutive days. Since COVID-19 inception, Will County has experienced 10,830 positive cases, with 355 total deaths. In Homer Glen, there has been 305 positive cases. Since last Spring, Homer Glen residents and businesses have complied with all public health guidelines to slow the spread and not burden our local healthcare system. As of today, 32% of hospital beds and 31% of ICU beds are available in region 7. This is good news, as it shows that our healthcare system is not being overly burdened by COVID-19 cases.

While both myself and the Village Board have been supportive of past mitigation efforts, some of the current resurgence mitigation requirements are concerning. Many of the requirements do not appear to be based on science and seem to be arbitrary. Region 4, which includes the Southwest area of Illinois has been under different resurgence mitigation requirements than our region. Their positivity rates have been higher for a longer period of time, but with fewer restrictions imposed on them. For example, their restaurants have been allowed to remain open for indoor dining. This is not being allowed for our region.

Additionally, there are other requirements that are not based upon any scientific reason or data. For example, the mandated closing of all restaurants by 11:00pm when our residents can simply drive less than one mile to an adjacent town and eat and drink until 2am. This arbitrary closing time only serves to hurt our local Homer Glen businesses - with no evidence that it
will reduce the positivity rate of our region. The additional requirement of reservations for outdoor tables is also overly burdensome on our local businesses, who are already under enormous stress and limited staffing. How will this lower the positivity rate? Our local businesses are already adhering to masks and social distancing requirements.

The restriction of occupancy to the lesser of 25 guests or 25% of overall room capacity, will essentially shut down the majority of meetings and gatherings - regardless of the overall size of the venue. This again is arbitrary and unfair for larger facilities and venues that have room to spread out and social distance easily but are still restricted to a total of 25 guests. This is a business death sentence to these types of venues. While I can support the 50% or even 25% capacity restrictions - I cannot sit quietly and support the arbitrary number of 25.

The Village contracts with the Will County Sheriff’s Department for our public safety and law enforcement needs. However, the State’s Phase 4 re-opening plans are guidelines and are not local laws or ordinances. As such, our limited local resources must be devoted to the enforcement of existing ordinances, regulations and laws. We will respectfully defer to the State of Illinois as it relates to the enforcement of these new guidelines. Our businesses should be aware that both the state and local public health departments do have the authority to enforce these mitigation requirements.

The Village and our local businesses continue to be placed in a no-win situation - how to balance the public’s health and safety with the dire economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Homer Glen businesses need our support now more than ever. Please shop and dine local. As the Mayor of Homer Glen, I will continue to advocate for public safety measures that I believe are fair and scientifically based. My goal has always been to protect both our residents and our local businesses. I ask everyone in Homer Glen to continue to wear your masks, social distance and be kind to one another. Do your part to eradicate this terrible virus. Thank you.

2) Trustee Gray –

Last night the Community & Economic Development committee met jointly with the Village Branding Steering members and other members of the public and staff to review the latest work on our identity makeover. The new designs were liked by all, and the members were excited to see the beginning stages of the adaptation of the look into signage, marketing materials, event communications etc. and they strongly agree that this is an excellent addition to the Village story.

The presentation you will see in our workshop this evening gives an excellent rundown on all of the meetings and hours and hours of work that have gone into this collaborative effort. I would like to thank all of those involved for contributing so much of their time and talent to this project. The work they have done will serve the Village for many years to come.

This is an exciting time for the Village to unify it’s identity and marketing efforts with the renewed interest in our 159th street corridor. Our branding and marketing efforts will continue to make Homer Glen the preeminent destination for developers, businesses and families well into the future.
With the State now taking our region into new and unwarranted restrictions, I think it is a
great time to remind the community that our local businesses need our support, NOW, MORE
THAN EVER. While it might be easy and convenient to slip across the border to a
neighboring village, please remember that will do irreparable harm to the businesses in Homer
Glen-the very businesses we depend on. These restrictions come at time when we are enjoying
an increase in commercial development in the Village with the groundbreaking for Gas N’
Wash tomorrow, The Square at Gooding’s Grove townhouses now having ___ units under
construction, the completion of the new GoodLife building in Founders Crossing, Mugshots
nearing a Grand Opening date, and numerous recent ribbon cuttings all show that the
economic life in Homer Glen remains vibrant!

I would ask the Mayor and the Village Manager to join me in inviting business owners to join
us in an open round table meeting to hear from our partners the challenges they face and how
best we can assist them as we go into the Fall and Winter still dealing with the pandemic
threat.
I’m asking staff to send an invitation to all business owners to meet with myself as Chair of
the CED, the Mayor and Village Manager to take place by September 16th, 2020 and that we
bring those findings and any potential recommendations back to the Village Board for
consideration.

3) Trustee Backal –

I would like to speak in regards to the Covid mandate and Covid in general, we keep hearing
that we need to listen to the science and I completely agree with that so let’s hear what the
science has to say... This is from webmed.com/lung August 7, 2020. If you contract Covid,
the recovery and survival rate is between 97 to 99.75% chance that you will have a full
survival. So, I ask should this be considered a medical crisis? Now if your doctor was to tell
you, you had a 97 to 99.75% chance of surviving would you consider that to be critical, or
would you be hopeful of the outcome? Yet we are to believe that having a 97 to a 99% chance
of survival is damn near a death sentence if you were to listen to the politicians. I would like
you to think about that, is that worth shutting down our businesses and our lives? And at what
point do we say enough is enough! We have lost our freedom. Once our freedom has been lost
not much else will matter. Yet we surrendered our freedom to an overreaching governor
without a bullet being fired with a calm unquestioned resolve. We handed over our rights to
live free and prosper, I cannot in good faith stay silent as our overreaching governor uses his
political will to impose a death sentence on our businesses in homerglen and Will County.
This is no longer a health emergency this is a political agenda. The governor has stated that
the only way out of this Covid situation is with the production of a vaccine. I ask everyone in
this room and all of those watching which one of you will be the first to get in line for a
government approved vaccine? I think we all see where this is heading we are to sit down shut
up and obey our governor. Social distance that’s all you need to do... Just wear a mask that’s
all we need to do... Don’t go to school that’s all we need to do... Don’t go to church that’s all
we need to do... Don’t vote in person that’s all we need to do... Just close your business
that’s all we need to do. Obey Governor Pritzker!! I say no! And if you think that the loss of
your freedom is just an inconvenience and that is just the price that we need to pay to put this
Chinese virus behind us... I would Like you all to think about this, what about the businesses
that have been crippled and, in many cases, closed for good due to Governor Pritzker. What
about the economic consequences we have all incurred. What about the suicides they have
gone through the roof. Don’t you think that these people count as victims? All of this because
we set aside an allowed our freedoms to be stolen from us by our governor. Homer Glen and Will County are being punished by Pritzker, yet Chicago with its mass riots and looting from tens of thousands of people gets no such treatment... This is not about Covid... If this was about Covid then why is it that you cannot go into a bar or a restaurant to sit down and eat or drink? Yet you can go into that very same bar or restaurant to gamble and game. This is politically driven this is not about our health and our welfare. However, I want to be very clear about this I am not a China virus denier. I accept that Covid affects the elderly and people with underlying conditions such as heart issues cancer patients and diabetics. Thank you Mayor.

4) Clerk Neitzke-Troike — Clerk Neitzke- Troike just asked if there were any plans for a Special needs swing for Evlyn’s Gate Park. Trustee Rodgers stated she will look into it, but it is the goal to have at least one swing at each park that is ADA accessible.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

I. CONSENT AGENDA

1. The Accounts Payable for the period of August 14, 2020 through August 27, 2020 in the amount of $625,838.36.
3. The All Around Amusement contract for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 Homer Community Festival.
4. An Intergovernmental Agreement with Homer Township Road District to provide services for the set-up, operation, and tear down of the 2021 Homer Community Festival.

Trustee Caprio motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Trustee Gray.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:*
Ayes: (6) Trustees Sweas, Caprio, Gray, Rodgers, Backal, and Pazmino
Nays: (0)
Abstained: (0)
Absent: (0)
The motion carried.

J. LEGISLATION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve the appointment of Matthew Zarebczan to serve as a member of the Village’s Plan Commission for the term expiring on October 3, 2022.

Trustee Backal motioned to approve, second by Trustee Caprio.
*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:*
Ayes: (6) Trustees Gray, Sweas, Caprio, Backal, Rodgers, and Pazmino
Nays: (0)
Abstained: (0)
Absent: (0)
Mayor Yukich also voted Aye
The motion carried.
2. Motion to approve Ordinance No. 20-034 approving a modification to the approved Plat of Subdivision pursuant to the Village’s Land Use and Site Development (Subdivision) regulations for the proposed Windsor Court, Phase 2 Subdivision located at 12513 W. Hadley Road, Homer Glen, Illinois [HG-1905-PAS, Windsor Court, Phase 2].

Trustee Sweas motioned to approve, second by Trustee Rodgers.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:*
Ayes: (6) Trustees Gray, Sweas, Caprio, Rodgers and Backal, Nays: (0)
Abstained: (0)
Absent: (0)
*The motion carried.*

3. Consider for Approval Ordinance No. 20-035, an Ordinance approving (1) a Variance to increase the maximum permitted height of a fence located in a corner side yard from four (4) feet to six (6) feet; and (2) a Variance to permit a solid fence in a corner side yard where fences are required to be fifty (50) percent open in design, for certain real property located in the R-3 Single-Family Residential District at 12135 Aspen Lane, Homer Glen, Illinois.

*Remanded back to the Planning Commission.*

4. Motion to approve Ordinance 20-036, an Ordinance amending Solicitation at Certain Times [Article II Peddling and Soliciting of Chapter 83 (Business Operations) of the Code of the Village of Homer Glen.]*

Trustee Gray motioned to approve, second by Trustee Sweas. The Village Board discussed promoting the availability of solicitation permits to assist residents with the change in solicitation hours.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:*
Ayes: (4) Trustees Gray, Caprio, Backal and Mayor Yukich
Nays: (3) Trustees Rodgers, Sweas, Pazmino
Abstained: (0)
Absent: (0)
*The motion carried.*

5. Motion to approve a special event permit for a disc golf tournament at Heritage Park on September 20, 2020.

Trustee Rodgers motioned to approve, second by Trustee Gray.

*The Mayor asked the Clerk to call the Roll:*
Ayes: (6) Trustees Gray, Sweas, Rodgers, Backal, Caprio, and Pazmino
Nays: (0)
Abstained: (0)
Absent: (0)
Mayor Yukich also voted Aye
The motion carried.

K. WORKSHOP –

John Bosio of Merje design presented the Village of Homer Glen Branding Project Schematic Design Options. The Village Board discussed the options and would like to see more of the color green incorporated in the Design options as opposed to the fall colors that were presented.

L. OLD BUSINESS – None

M. NEW BUSINESS - None

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION -

1. Purchase or Sale of Real Property 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
2. Potential of Pending Litigation 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

Trustee Caprio motioned to enter Executive Session, second by Trustee Sweas. Time 8:42pm. There was a 5 minute break to allow residents to exit.

Voice Vote:
Ayes: (6) Trustees Sweas, Backal, Holtz, Rodgers, Gray, and Pazmino
Nays: (0)
Abstained: (0)
Absent: (0)
The motion carried

The Village Board, Attorney Eric Hanson and Village Manager Karie Friling reconvened to the all Regular board meeting at 9:39 pm. No action was taken.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Caprio motioned to adjourn, second by Trustee Backal.

Voice Vote:
Ayes: (5) Trustees Sweas, Gray, Caprio, Rodgers, Backal, and Pazmino
Nays: (0)
Abstained: (0)
Absent: (0)
The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Christina Neitzke-Troike, Village Clerk
Approved at the Board of Trustees Meeting dated October 14, 2020