

Parks & Recreation Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
September 17, 2018

**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 6:30 p.m. by Co-Chairperson Beth Rodgers.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Present at 6:30 p.m. were Co-Chair Beth Rodgers, Members Cassandra Courtright, Ed Cryer, Russel Knack, John Walters, Mark Gawron and Thor Batchelor. Co-Chair Christina Neitzke-Troiike arrived at 6:47 p.m.

Members Absent: Dale Janssen, Bob Kman and Regina Robinson.

Also Present: Facilities Manager John Robinson and Administrative Analyst Matt Walsh.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. Minutes.

- a) August 20, 2018

Co-Chair Rodgers stated that the minutes from the August 20, 2018 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting were being presented for approval. Member Cryer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Gawron. The motion passed.

6. Public Comment.

Resident Michelle Parchem expressed concerns about the access routes to Heritage Park for her young children. The kids currently have to go through parking lots and on to 151st Street. Co-Chair Rodgers responded that an access route was going to be discussed under item 8b.

Resident Christine Mariani-Hren expressed similar concerns for her children. Member Knaack asked if the discussion about the 151st Street path would include discussion about the fencing that surrounds the park. Co-Chair Rodgers stated that it can be discussed when that agenda item comes up.

Resident Marty Pavlik, of Glenview Walk subdivision, stated that he hoped future park development was on the agenda and asked what the next steps are for placing a park in his subdivision. Co-Chair Rodgers responded that the item was removed from the agenda because the data had not been collected. Co-Chair Rodgers stated

that a needs assessment is required, and that although there is no current money in the budget for park development, there are upcoming park donation fees coming from subdivision developers.

Mr. Pavlik asked about what happened to the park donation fees collected from his subdivision. Co-Chair Rodgers responded that park donation fees could be used for any park project throughout the Village. Mr. Pavlik asked if Glenview Walk was up next for a park project. Facilities Manager John Robinson responded that the assessment has not been updated in eight (8) years. Mr. Robinson stated that there are two (2) parcels that the Village owns that a park can currently be built upon. One is in Glenview Walk and the other is in Meadowview West.

Tom Czapka, of Glenview Walk subdivision, stated that the subdivision has been growing in recent years and that there are a number of young families presently living there. Forty six (46) homes now exist in the subdivision, and a playground would be a great addition. Mr. Pavlik asked the committee what more could be done by the residents to push the project forward. Co-Chair Rodgers stated that their presence at meetings is very helpful, and it keeps the issue on the forefront.

Ms. Parchem then mentioned that the proposed plan for the 151st street path included in the meeting packet would not be helpful for her family. Ms. Parchem mentioned that the Heritage Park concept plan includes access closer to her house. Mr. Robinson confirmed that there are some Village right-of-ways that could be used for access as the project proceeds. He also mentioned that there have been some discussions about placing a gate on the fence between Heritage Park and the Township Sports complex. Member Knaack questioned the need for that fence and Mr. Robinson responded that there might be concerns with the township and interference with activities at that complex.

Co-Chair Rodgers asked Analyst Walsh to add the topic of fence removal to the October agenda. Co-Chairs Rodgers and Neitzke-Troiike agreed that the removal of the barbed wire was discussed previously. Co-Chair Rodgers asked Mr. Robinson to follow-up with staff and the Mayor to remove the barbed wire. The residents of Glenview Walk asked if there could be a trail from Glenview Walk to Heritage Park. Co-Chair Rodgers was not sure of those logistics, but expanding trails is part of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan and staff would explore the feasibility of that trail.

Ms. Parchem offered to put in a gate directly from her property to Heritage Park if the Village prefers. Co-Chair Rodgers asked Ms. Parchem to get a consensus from her neighbors about access to the park. Member Walters is a neighbor of Ms. Parchem's and stated that he hears both the positives and negatives of access in that subdivision. Co-Chair Rodgers told Ms. Parchem to ask the HOA and then bring the findings to the next Village Board meeting. There was some discussion about what phase of Heritage Park construction included the access points.

7. Old Business.

- a) Presentation by Holiday Event Planning Team

Mr. Robinson asked questions about the hay ride, then introduced his ideas about lighting Heritage Circle. Member Gawron and Member Courtright confirmed that his ideas are very close to the subcommittee's ideas. Member Batchelor offered the use of one of his inflatable decorations.

Member Gawron described the updated plans for the event. This includes the use of pop-up tents, if needed. The money in the event budget previously allocated for the large tent would be spent on lighting. Member Gawron discussed the details of activities and layout and asked for support from the committee. Co-Chair Neitzke-Troike asked for a consensus, and it was met with unanimous support. Member Gawron will work with the subcommittee to create an action plan. Details on erecting the tree still need to be finalized.

8. New Business.

a) Disc Golf Update.

Member Batchelor stated that he has about twelve (12) holes designed. He asked about using the eastern portion of Heritage Park, and Mr. Robinson stated that portion of the park is primarily for water retention and natural plantings. Co-Chair Rodgers told Member Batchelor to reach out to Jim Petrakos of Tria Architecture and Development Services Director Michael Salamowicz about the plan details. Mr. Robinson added that HR Green would need to be involved as well, due to their work with the 319 Grant portion of the park.

Member Batchelor has reached out to two (2) manufacturers about purchasing baskets. Both manufacturers have prices within the budget, and one company offers a long-term warranty. Mr. Robinson asked if the baskets were removable, and Member Batchelor confirmed the budget would cover the costs of removable baskets.

b) 151st Street Trail Discussion.

Analyst Walsh provided background on the planned sidewalk on 151st Street and stated that the Board has given approval to move forward with planning of the path. The sidewalk would connect Heroes Trail and Heritage Park through Woodbine subdivision. Co-Chair Rodgers asked for committee input on labeling the path.

Member Cryer pointed out that access points on the north side of the park would more easily connect to Heroes Trail. Co-Chair Rodgers responded that the subdivisions to the north of the park have voiced displeasure with any paths, but it could still be done. The 151st Street sidewalk is the easiest option at the moment. Member Batchelor asked how the 151st Street expansion would impact the project.

Mr. Robinson voiced concerns about the location of the path as it relates to the placement of a potential Emergency Management Agency building, as well as security issues with the current Facilities Department's maintenance buildings and equipment. Member Batchelor proposed that a privacy fence be placed around the maintenance buildings.

Co-Chair Rodgers asked for a sub-committee to be formed to decide where signage should go. Member Knaack questioned the need for signage. There was general discussion about where signage should be placed and where paths should go near Heritage Park. Co-Chair Rodgers stated that the ultimate goal should be to have access at both the north and south sides of the park. Co-Chair Neitzke-Troiike responded that the Board has discussed the topic, and reiterated that residents north of Heritage Park do not want the path. Co-Chair Neitzke-Troiike described some of the residents' concerns, including parking on subdivision streets.

Mr. Robinson stated that the street portions of the existing trails have signs, and the new signage should match. Member Knaack stated that there is a master trails plan, and any trails discussion should be guided by that plan. Co-Chair Rodgers mentioned that trails expansion is part of the current strategic plan.

9. Reports and Communications from Staff.

a) Facilities Manager's Update.

Facilities Manager Robinson stated that he is trying to figure out a different way to put a handicapped parking sign at Goodings Grove Park, because it keeps being vandalized.

Mr. Robinson reported that twenty (20) trees were removed from around Heritage Circle due to Active Core construction. Five (5) of the trees were dead and are being credited, five (5) were planted near the maintenance buildings, and ten (10) were transferred and planted at Goodings Grove Park by staff.

Co-Chair Rodgers mentioned that the grass at Goodings Grove Park appears to be taking, and staff should circle back with the contractor. Analyst Walsh mentioned that there would be an item on the agenda at October's Administration & Finance committee meeting. Co-Chair Rodgers stated that staff should meet with the contractor to talk about the quality of the grass before the meeting. Mr. Robinson stated that he had discussed it with Mr. Salamowicz and something would be set up.

10. Committee Member Updates

Co-Chair Rodgers asked if the committee meetings could be moved to 6:00 p.m. and there was general agreement.

Co-Chair Neitzke-Rodgers announced that she would not be at the next meeting.

11. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn was made by Member Courtright, second by Member Cryer. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Matt Walsh
Administrative Analyst