

# Community Development Committee

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Minutes of the Meeting on

January 28, 2025

**Village of Homer Glen  
14240 W. 151<sup>st</sup> Street  
Village Community Room**

**1. Call to Order**

The 6:30 p.m. meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chair Steilen after a quorum was established.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call; Establish Quorum**

Members present: Chair Sue Steilen, Vice-Chair Dan Kenney, Jody Olivieri, Laura Elkins, Ken Marcin arrived late, Paul McGary and John McGary.

Members absent:

Also Present: Staff Liaison Brittany Parra, Events Director Dan Waddick

**4. Amendments to the Agenda**

No amendments.

**5. Approval of the Agenda**

Member P. McGary made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice-Chair Kenney seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried.

**6. Public Comment**

None

**7. Approval of Minutes**

a. November 14, 2024, Minutes

Member P. McGary made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Vice-Chair Kenney seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

**8. Old Business**

a. **Homer for the Holidays Review & Future**

Member Oliveri said it was so dark where the Konow's ride was held, suggested a better plan for next year. Chair Steilen brought up the idea of acquiring a new ornament or light fixture for the park each year to add to the collection. Staff Member Waddick mentioned the possibility of a light buy-back program to potentially save money and space for storage. Staff Member Waddick reiterated that events had to call an audible when the tractor showed up and it was not what was expected for the Christmas train ride. Chair Steilen opened discussion on moving forward, should we book the reindeer now? The train? Most agreed that the train should be brought back next season, with solutions to the darkness problem. Originally, the plan was to have a gator (Atv) instead of a tractor. Chair Steilen said it would be good to decorate the train next year with some lights and

garland. Now as far as changes go, Staff Member Waddick said no to the outdoor heaters because they were not functioning properly, no to the free hot cocoa because of the running back and forth with the hot water. Outsourcing was suggested for the hot cocoa to ensure efficiency, perhaps purchasing X amount of cocoa to give for free and go from there. Staff Member Waddick mentioned the electrical issues and trying to get to the bottom of it, as the shed should hold tons of power. The tent was good, although Staff Member Waddick wanted an enclosed door not openings. The fire pits were awesome too, zero problems reported by anyone. Mike Petty was hired as Santa, although Staff Member Waddick wished he would have been a little more theatrical with his interactions and entrance. Anna and Olaf were also a big hit. Member Elkins suggested a live action Grinch to go around and greet everyone, she will forward the information to the right person. Vice-Chair Kenney inquired about carolers to wander around and sing to everyone.

**b. 2025 Events Schedule/Update**

Chair Steilen likes the idea of a pop-up snow event with hot cocoa, on standby for forecasted winter weather, like a random sled race. Vice-Chair Kenney presented his interest and intent to host a community document shredding event in April. He will run everything, requiring minimal village assistance other than social media sharing and perhaps traffic flow. It is a free event run by himself, Chair Steilen thought it may be wise to have participants to bring an item for the food drive to the shredding event. The shredding event is personal documents only, a box or two. Garage sales were brought up by Chair Steilen, right now there are no concrete dates but possibly June 13 paired with a Food Truck Friday. Scare-itage Park plan was questioned since last year was such a late jump, and Staff Member Waddick said the previous vendor's insurance will still be valid this year. Food Truck Friday in September is going to be Oktoberfest themed! Food truck options were discussed, like sausages, alcohol and other things that would fit that vibe.

**c. Website Update**

Chair Steilen wants more community information and things listed on the website for residents to see. For now, that was all until Amy Blank gives more insight. User friendliness was also critiqued.

**d. Channel 6/Social Media Content**

The committee talked about some ideas for segments and more content for Staff Liaison Brittany Parra. Chair Steilen suggested the book sale as something to cover potentially. Cross of Glory's Easter Egg Hunt is another contender.

**9. New Business**

**a. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Chair Steilen mentioned the upcoming anniversary and potential for celebrations at Homer Fest. A fly over happened in the past but it was very expensive, so the

committee started to brainstorm some ideas that are budget friendly, as the fly over was around 10k.

**b. 2025 Budget Ideas**

Chair Steilen asked if there are any wish list items for this year, Member P. McGary said benches in the park. Perhaps bench sponsorships, in a permanent way. Member Marcin brought up pairing Movie Under The Stars with Trunk or Treat but it is too late in the season to be outside for a movie. The discussion led into suggestions to prevent Trunks from backing out like last year, perhaps a vendor fee like a security deposit.

**c. Volunteer Appreciation**

Chair Steilen said that in past years the Village would invite volunteers for a bbq as a thank you, along with a pen or tee for appreciation. Vice-Chair Kenney suggested a featured spot for volunteer of the week or something along those lines. Vice-Chair Kenney also pleaded for bringing the community together despite the differences online. Which prompted the question, what can the committee do for the community to foster togetherness and civic pride in an engaging way? Member Marcin wondered if a holiday tree decorating contest was a good idea for each park. There was also brief discussion about a Valentine's day feature for channel 6, for next year since it is late in the game now, perhaps at White Castle.

**10. Announcements/Committee Members Communication**

None.

**11. Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Kenney motioned to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. with a second by Member Oliveri. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Brittany Parra  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Village of Homer Glen