

Ability Awareness Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
February 1, 2022

**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 6:33 p.m. by Chairperson LaHa

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Roll Call was taken by H.R. Manager Patrianakos at 6:35 p.m.

Ability Awareness Committee	Title	Attendance
Nicole LaHa	Chairperson	Present
Christina Neitzke-Troiike	Committee Member	Present
Karen Adamczyk	Committee Member	Present
Heather Bleck	Committee Member	Present
Angela McKenna	Committee Member	Not Present
Robert O'Connor	Committee Member	Present: 6:36 p.m.
James Cronos	Committee Member	Present
Stacy Patrianakos	Staff Liaison	On Phone

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda

- There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from December 7, 2021 committee meeting
- 1st Member Neitzke/Troiike /2nd Member Adamczyk: Unanimously approved

6. Public Comment

- No comments

7. Reports and Communication

a) Report from Chairperson LaHa:

- **Collection Closet:** Chairperson LaHa stated that along with Village Clerk Neitzke-Troiike and HR Manager Patrianakos they toured the open closet space at the Village Hall which will be used as the equipment collection

closet. Chairperson LaHa is compiling a list of items that the AAC will be collecting and she will also be requesting an itemized list from the Township. Chairperson LaHa will create a check-out form and liability waiver that she will be sharing with the committee for their review and feedback. During committee discussion, one question that came up was, how will the committee handle items that are not returned? Village Clerk Neitzke-Troiike recommended that a process be created and shared with those involved in the management of equipment at Village Hall. Chairperson LaHa would like to host an equipment collection day in April.

- **Understanding your child's IEP roundtable:** Chairperson LaHa reported that the workshop had a very good turnout and 99% positive feedback. One suggestion was to have a separate workshop for parents only. An educator from Mokena-Lincoln-Way district requested assistance in setting up their own AAC and hosting a similar workshop. Overall this was a very well-received event.
- b) Report from HR Manager Patrianakos: nothing to report
- c) Report from Member Adamczyk: nothing to report
- d) Report from Member O'Connor: nothing to report
- e) Report from Member Crones: nothing to report
- f) Report from Member Bleck:
 - Member Bleck commented that best buddies would be interested in another event in 2022 similar to what was hosted at Konow's in 2021. The location has not yet been finalized.
- g) Report from Village Clerk Neitzke-Troiike:
 - **Pop tab challenge:** Mr. Konow will be donating \$5K again in 2022. The committee discussed potentially hosting another pop tab challenge. If the pop tab challenge will take place then everyone agreed that a kick-off date, timeline, and logistics need to be finalized soon.
 - **Plastic cap collection:** The Homer Junior Woman's Club has started plastic caps collection event. Village Clerk Neitzke-Troiike suggested that the AAC in conjunction with environment and parks committees do the same. The AAC should determine if this is something that should be brought to the board. The pop tab and plastic cap challenge can be hosted simultaneously.
 - **Great Gatsby Gala:** At the last meeting the committee discussed hosting a Great Gatsby Gala in 2023 and Village Clerk Neitzke-Troiike asked if the committee is still interested in moving forward with the event. The committee agreed that the event should take place. The committee also agreed that further discussions around how the funds raised will be spent should be had and finalized in the near future.
 - **2022 big project:** Village Clerk Neitzke-Troiike requested an update on the 2022 AAC big project. Chairperson LaHa stated that she would like the committee to have finalized the 2022 "big project" no later than April 30, 2022. Some of the suggestions that the committee discussed were; sensory park equipment or creating a full sensory park. Chairperson LaHa requested that everyone brainstorm and come up with some ideas.

8. Old Business

- **AAC Brochure:**
 - Chairperson LaHa is working on the Ability Awareness Brochure that will be used at events.
- **Teachers/Advocate Award Program.**
 - Chairperson LaHa stated that she is very interested in moving forward with this event/award.
 - Chairperson LaHa requested that Member O'Connor take the lead on this project since it was his idea.
 - The committee discussed that the following items need to be ironed out before moving forward with planning:
 - ✓ Determine the name of the event, it should be caring or giving.
 - ✓ Creation of an appealing advertisement plan.
 - ✓ What will the nomination process look like?
 - ✓ What will the timeline be?
 - ✓ What will the prizes be?
 - ✓ Who is eligible to be nominated?
 - ✓ How will the winners & nominees be notified?
- **2022 Annual Community Project:** The committee brainstormed around 2022 "big project" and came up with some of the following ideas:
 - Shopping cart
 - Equipment room
 - Sensory park equipment
 - Library books and/or sensory room

9. New Business

- **2nd Roundtable event will be "First Responders & Accessibility"**
 - Chairperson LaHa stated that the next roundtable will be First Responders & Accessibility which will include fire and police staff. This event will be open to all Village residents and will be hosted in March. Chairperson LaHa and Village Clerk Neitzke-Troiike will contact Lt. Jim Holuj and Chris Locacius to request speakers for the event. Chairperson LaHa will be contacting the Public Safety committee to see if they are interested in partnering with AAC for this event.
- **Library Event:** Chairperson LaHa informed the committee that the library will be hosting an event about inclusivity and disabilities. The event will feature the book "Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body Hardcover" by Rebekah Taussig. The author will be in attendance and the library has requested that the AAC be involved in this event. Once details are finalized Chairperson LaHa will inform the committee.
- **Sign language class**
 - Chairperson LaHa stated that she is interested in hosting an ASL training class which will be open to all residents. There

will be no charge for this event. Once a facilitator is confirmed the date will be determined and communicated.

- Chairperson LaHa and the committee discussed the 2022 calendar of events including:
 - March
 - ✓ Best buddies “spread the word to end the word” day.
 - ✓ Veteran’s fundraiser: Village Clerk Neitzke-Troike stated that a fundraiser will be hosted at the American Legion on March 20th and the cost is \$25.00 per person. She will forward an email with a link to purchase tickets.
 - April
 - ✓ ASL training
 - ✓ Finalize “big project”
 - ✓ Teachers award kick-off
 - May
 - ✓ Teachers award presentation.
 - June
 - ✓ Pop tab challenge
 - ✓ Homer Fest: Special needs day
 - November
 - ✓ Final roundtable
 - ✓ Friendsgiving event
- **HTHC Grant:** Chairperson LaHa stated that we have one nomination and she will be speaking with Highway Commissioner Brent Porfilio once the nomination window closes on February 28, 2022, regarding the next steps.
- Chairperson LaHa stated for the record that all members are not expected to attend all scheduled events.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn:

- 1st: Adamczyk
- 2nd: Crones
- Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Stacy Patrianakos
Human Resources Manager