

COMMUNITY SAFEGUARD SUB- COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting on
February 13, 2023

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 4:04 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Roll Call

Members present: Trustee Consolino, Village Manager Carmen Maurella, Township Supervisor Balich, Trustee Reynders and Trustee Fialko

Also Present: Gia Cassin, Assistant to the Village Manager

Not present: N/A

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda (none)

5. Approval of Minutes

a) January 13, 2023 - A motion was made by Trustee Reynders to approve the minutes are recorded, seconded by Trustee Consolino. All in favor, zero (0) opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment. (none)

7. Reports and Communications from Committee Members

a) Trustee Consolino – Stated that she did come up with a Mission Statement which she will provide via email to the committee. She also has a punch list to start discussing. She mentioned to get the message out about being proactive in the home, the car and the garage. She discussed plaques for the front door for solicitors and Trustee Fialko said the Village has them, vinyl decals, they are really nice. (Trustee Fialko stepped away from the meeting to get a sample for the committee members and promptly returned)

Township Supervisor Balich asked about changing the solicitation hours, however Trustee Consolino stated that it was a supreme court ruling for the set hours.

Trustee Fialko returned to the meeting and presented the no soliciting decals he discussed, and the committee said they would use these up and modify it for the next batch, to make them 5x5 square using same colors. The Committee said it would be a good idea to hand them out at Village Board meetings and maybe the fest.

Trustee Consolino stated that there has been a discussion with the Will County Sheriff's office and getting regular reports, and the Village Manager will be the liaison. Trustee Reynders said that the Sherriff's office or the Lieutenant should be updating the Village on any occurrence. Trustee Fialko said that it would be nice to see a copy of one of their reports in advance so we can see what's on there already. Trustee Consolino said that there are more burglaries that have occurred and she would like to know the times of any attempted break in or robbery. The Committee discussed the burglary at Kenwood.

The committee discussed the current "phone tree" for delivering emergent community information. Village Manager Maurella said that he will get an email and text from Brian Conser and Sheriff Kelly about incidents, fires, criminal activity.

Carmen said that the Fire and Police used to have monthly meetings with staff, and they are interested in resuming that. Trustee Consolino agreed that would be lovely. Trustee Consolino would like to be added to the emergency text list along with Carmen.

According to Carmen, Lt. Taylor said that the Mayor is the first notified, but that the Mayor doesn't notify anyone.

Township Supervisor Balich stated he doesn't get any notifications.

The committee stated that they would like to add Township Balich and Brent Porfilio to the notifications. Trustee Fialko stated that Lt. Taylor should be notifying the group also.

Deputy-Chief Todd Fonfara is the liaison for the text chain. It seems there are several lists of people being notified by different people but that it would be good to have a master list.

Balich said that all Trustees in township were notified, back then, because they used to do drills and their EMA wasn't like it is now. The feeling was that if there was an incident, people would call the trustees and they would be prepared. He added that the County is also not notifying the Township either.

The committee is concerned about making sure to fix this.

Trustee Fialko stated that EMA, Police, Fire are the three (3) entities and there should be one (1) centralized point of contact that sends the text.

Secretary Cassin stated that it seems EMA is the bridge between all, and Coordinator Kus might be the right person to create the master list. Village Manager Maurella will discuss this with Ron Kus and facilitate it.

Trustee Fialko asked about them using a Blast Call system.

Trustee Consolino broached the lighting policy. It is a huge concern from public safety, and the lighting hurts us. It impacts crime. There are some people that are extremely passionate about the dark skies, but this complaint about safety and the darkness keeps coming up.

Knowing the memorial tree and bench program is coming, people are aware that vandalism will come. This will cost the Village to spend money to make the repairs. (this was raised in conjunction with the lighting discussion)

Secretary Cassin said from her days of working in insurance, they were trained that lighting provided safety to homes and serves as a deterrent to crime.

Trustee Fialko suggested starting with the business corridor, let's approach this gingerly. He feels that the business corridors don't need to follow the same lighting. Trustee Consolino stated she did have a conversation with Director King about this.

Township Supervisor Balich discussed maybe fix this with new businesses going forward. Trustee Fialko agreed that might be a good way to start to introduce the lighting.

Trustee Consolino said that we should put together a list of reasons why the environment needs to consider changes to the dark sky ordinance.

Trustee Consolino said that we don't gain anything beside feeling better about our environment, and we have to pay a nominal fee each year for the dark sky status.

Trustee Fialko said that there are separate ordinances for the signs and the lighting in the parking lots.

Township Supervisor Balich said that he feels a strong amount of people do not support the dark skies. The committee discussed the possibility of going to referendum or doing a survey.

The Committee discussed the park camera's – to find out if they are working now. The Committee discussed cameras and camera repairs.

b) Village Manager Carmen Maurella

Village Manager Maurella stated his biggest concern is the lithium batteries and doing stickers for the recycle bins, and so he is talking with Nu Way as to how they want the sticker to look and they are discussing the costs and who will absorb it.

Trustee Consolino said that it should be included in the News Letter.

Trustee Reynders said there are 11,000 homes in the Village.

Trustee Consolino said that they should mimic the magnet they put out several years ago.

Trustee Fialko said maybe there is some law on the books that will require the disposal companies to address this over a certain period of time.

c) Trustee Fialko

Trustee Fialko stated that we need to be careful that we are not penalizing the majority for the infractions of the few. (in discussing Flock Cameras) We don't want to scold or penalize people. He said Flock cameras are another way of defunding the police and clarified by adding that embracing this technology, there is less need for physical officers. He does want police to be present. Trustee Fialko made an example of the grocery store checkouts and stated like they do with the self-check-out in the stores, they started with a few, and then learned they could do more and no need for staff and no one is talking to each other anymore.

Trustee Fialko added that he feels this committee is off to a good start.

d) Trustee Reynders

Trustee Reynders stated she spent the day driving with the campaign truck and she saw many garage doors open, in the middle of the day with no one around. She saw cars with windows rolled down. She said we really need to print up and have it available on the website a list of do's and don'ts. They would just be suggestions.

d) Township Supervisor Balich

At the County, they have Public health and Safety, and how much of your personal freedom would you give up for your personal safety. They discuss Flock Camera's, and he said that the FBI and Homeland Security can get the tapes. He doesn't like the idea of being followed, so at the county they have a lot of discussion about this. The majority may feel that it's OK so long as we don't get robbed. He feels he would rather have his house lit up rather than be tracked. He shared that the people are not aware of the things that are happening out there.

8) Old Business (none to date)

9) New Business (none)

10) Next Meeting:

March 13, 2023

11) Adjournment

Trustee Reynders made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Township Supervisor Balich. All were in favor, zero (0) opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes transcribed and respectfully submitted by Gia Cassin.

Gia Cassin (Plan Commission Secretary):

Gia Cassin
March 13, 2023

Approved Date: