

# Ability Awareness Committee

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Minutes of the Meeting on  
March 1, 2022

**Village of Homer Glen  
14240 W 151<sup>st</sup> Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491  
Village Board Room**

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 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-Troike	Committee Member	Arrived at 6:38 p.m.
Karen Adamczyk	Committee Member	Present
Heather Bleck	Committee Member	Not Present
Angela McKenna	Committee Member	Present
Robert O'Connor	Committee Member	Present
James Cronos	Committee Member	Arrived at 6:59 p.m.
Stacy Patrianakos	Staff Liaison	Present

**4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda**

- There were no amendments to the agenda.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- Motion to approve minutes from February 1, 2022 committee meeting
- 1<sup>st</sup> Member Adamczyk /2<sup>nd</sup> Member McKenna Unanimously approved

**6. Public Comment**

- No comments

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## 7. Reports and Communication

### a) Report from Chairperson LaHa:

- **First Responders Roundtable** is scheduled for March 15, 2022. The AAC will provide an outline of topics to be discussed. The attendees will include representatives from the Will County Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, and K-9 unit. The AAC will provide direction regarding topics to be covered.
- **Inclusive Park Equipment:** The Parks committee has gone out to bid for all-inclusive playground equipment which will be included in Heritage Park. The parks committee would like to partner with the AAC when selecting park equipment.
- **Collection Closet:** After Chairperson LaHa visited the township to discuss potentially partnering with the Township on this initiative, she recommended that the Village move forward with our own closet. It does not appear that the Township is interested in growing its inventory or partnering with the Village. Chairperson LaHa shared the equipment sign-up form and equipment inventory list with the committee and asked for their feedback. The committee discussed that this program should be shared with and advertised to our seniors. The committee also agreed that prior to hosting a collection day, a current inventory list should be confirmed and an acceptable donation item list should be created.
- **Homer Fest:** Trustee Fialko has asked that the AAC spearhead the special needs day at the Homer Fest. Trustee LaHa would like to designate the April meeting to discuss the planning for Homer Fest. The committee discussed a number of initiatives and events that they would like to see incorporated into 2022 Homer Fest such as a kid's stage, interactive activities, mats and flooring to accommodate the weather, etc.

### b) Report from HR Manager Patrianakos: nothing to report

### c) Report from Member Adamczyk:

- **Plastic Tops:** Provided an update and brochure regarding the plastic top collections. She recommended that students assist with sorting and that we can possibly do this as an outdoor activity and students can receive service hours for participating. The committee agreed that this initiative will be hosted and handled by the AAC committee only. Member Adamczyk will spearhead this initiative and a detailed project plan will be shared with all involved.

### d) Report from Member O'Connor: nothing to report.

### e) Report from Member Crones: nothing to report

### f) Report from Village Clerk Neitzke-Troiike:

- **The Pop Tab Challenge:** We need to pick a town to challenge and/or partner with. Village Clerk Neitzke-Troiike is going to contact Lemont if they want to partner with us and Mokena to challenge. This is an initiative that we need to nail down a timeframe so we can announce.
- **Great Gatsby Gala:** The Phoenix is very supportive to partner with us. He would like to do everything for the AAC at cost. The Phoenix can accommodate up to 120 people. Village Clerk Neitzke-Troiike will coordinate

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a meeting with Phoenix and she wants everyone to participate in the planning. Chairperson LaHa recommended that we put together a gala committee to assist with the planning of this event, and the committee agreed.

#### **8. Old Business:**

- **Highway Commissioner Grant:**

The nomination window closed at the end of February. All nominations will be forwarded to Highway Commissioner Porfilio and Trustee LaHa to review and determine the next steps.

- **American Sign Language Session:**

The AAC will finalize a date in April/May preferably on a Thursday evening to host this event. This will be an introductory community class that may include a recorded webinar. If this becomes an ongoing class, then the committee should consider rotating volunteers to teach the course. Another consideration discussed by the committee is a 12-year-old age requirement for this course in order to ensure it is productive and organized. Member McKenna volunteered to reach out to her contact and ask if she is interested in facilitating the first session.

- **Teachers/Advocate Award Program.**

Member O'Connor will be spearheading this initiative. Chairperson LaHa requested that the AAC send suggestions to her before the April meeting in order to finalize and kick off this initiative in the first week of April. The committee discussed coming up with an innovative name for this initiative, along with suggestions for the nomination process, awards, etc.

- **2022 Annual Community Project:** The committee brainstormed around their annual big project. Chairperson LaHa requested that all suggestions be emailed to her and a final decision should be made at April 5, 2022 meeting. Village Clerk Neitzke-Troike wants to cover May with a proclamation, mental awareness month.

#### **9. New Business**

- AAC calendar is up to date.
- Christina confirmed that Konow's will host best buddies' day again therefore we need to pick a date in late September or October.
- Market in the Glenn day will be in July 2022. The committee agreed that this is when the Pop Tab Challenge winners would be announced.

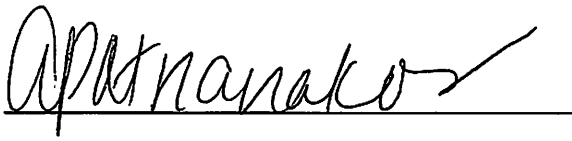
#### **10. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Karen
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Christina
- Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Patrianakos", is written over a solid horizontal line. The signature is cursive and includes a checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Stacy Patrianakos  
Human Resources Manager