

# Environment Committee

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Minutes of the Meeting on  
April 9, 2019

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

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Trustee Sharon Sweas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call.

Members present at 6:33 p.m. were Trustee Sharon Sweas, Nancy Carlson, Randy Juras, Andy Panelli, Margaret Sabo, Joe Turrise and Gary White.

Also Present: Advisor John Lobick, Village Manager Karie Friling and Administrative Analyst Matt Walsh.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

None.

Before moving on to approval of the minutes, Trustee Sweas introduced Village Manager Karie Friling to the Committee. Village Manager Friling provided some background on her professional experience. Committee members asked Village Manager Friling about her opinions on various items including the tree ordinance, lighting code and development.

Village Manager Friling stated that she has dealt with many related issues in Orland Park and looks forward to working with the Board to balance development and environmental concerns. The Committee made recommendations about training Committee members and staff on the reason the Village was incorporated and the details of the conservation design ordinance. Village Manager Friling mentioned that the Village would be undergoing an update to the Comprehensive Plan.

5. Minutes.

- a) February 12, 2019

Member Panelli made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2019 meeting; seconded by Member Juras. Motion passed unanimously.

- b) March 5, 2019

Member Panelli made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2019 meeting; seconded by Member Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

- c) March 26, 2019

Member Panelli made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2019 meeting; seconded by Member Sabo. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment.

None.

7. Old Business.

a) Discussion Regarding Tree Code Presentation

Trustee Sweas asked for volunteers to speak on behalf of the Environment Committee at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 23, 2019 regarding the Tree Code. Members Turrise and Juras volunteered, and Trustee Sweas stated she would ask Kathy Kudla and Member Rataj to attend as well. The Committee discussed how the code should treat invasive species. The volunteers will meet the week prior to the Committee of the Whole to prepare for the presentation and potential questions from the Village Board.

b) 2019 Earth Day Cleanup Event

Trustee Sweas updated the Committee on marketing efforts for the event. Fliers and posters have been distributed to a number of local businesses and organizations.

c) 2019 Plastic-Free Month Discussion

Member Panelli showed the Committee a sample door hanger flier made of card stock for inserting in the Homer Horizon. The door hanger was designed in the shape of a cartoon garbage can. Member Panelli proposed listing tips or reducing plastic use on the door hanger. The cost of printing and inserting 8,100 such fliers in the Homer Horizon is \$1,932. Printing the colors in color would cost an additional \$125. There is also a onetime die-cut fee of \$445. The total cost for black and white would be \$2,377.

The Committee liked the flyer design. The Committee is aiming to distribute the fliers around July in coordination with other regional and national promotions. Member Turrise reported that in Europe and China there has been an increase in businesses that burn plastics for energy, leading to other types of pollution. The Committee discussed policies and procedures that reduce plastic waste.

d) 2019 Environment Committee Events, Activities & Budget Discussion

a. Arbor Day Tree Planting

Trustee Sweas reported that Village Arborist Roger Ross has a persimmon and hickory tree available to be donated for planting. The Committee discussed the challenges and benefits of each type of tree. The consensus of the Committee is to plant the hickory tree. There was some discussion of potential locations for the planting to take place. Trustee Sweas will check with Facilities Manager John Robinson for locations and will update the group.

b. Stargazing

Trustee Sweas reported that the Astronomy group visited the site the week before. There are ongoing discussions with a sports group to ensure that lighting at the Township fields will be off. Trustee Sweas asked Member Carlson what was needed for the hawk demonstration in the Village Board Room prior to the event. The Committee asked if the televisions in the room could be used and Analyst Walsh stated that videos or slideshows could be shown.

c. Big Tree Contest

The Committee discussed marketing of the contest and the April 30 deadline. A few members mentioned entries they are planning on submitting.

8. New Business

None.

9. Announcements/Committee Members Communication

Member Sabo shared information about a Junk in the Trunk event hosted by the Homer Township Open Space Committee. The goal is to raise money to fund a new event space. The date has yet to be determined.

Member Carlson shared an article from Martha Stewart Magazine that listed a number of inventions and developments in green technology around the world.

Member Lobick asked about the Village plan for handling 5G mobile service and recycling soon-to-be obsolete phones. There was some discussion on the impact 5G would have.

Member Panelli discussed a bipartisan climate change bill that places a fee on carbon emissions to be returned to American citizens. The legislation is endorsed by the City of Chicago and would have higher standards than the Paris Climate agreement. Member Panelli stated that he would like to present background to the Committee and explore presenting it to the Board. The Board could potentially pass a resolution supporting the legislation.

10. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn made by Member White; seconded by Member Turrise. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Matt Walsh  
Administrative Analyst