

Parks & Recreation Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on
June 20, 2022

**Village of Homer Glen
14240 W 151st Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491
Village Community Room**

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Rose Reynders.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**3. Roll Call.**

Present at 6:00 p.m. were Co-Chair Nicole La Ha by phone, Co-Chair Reynders, Members Dale Janssen, Bob Kman, Marty Pavlik, Dan Kenney, Edward Cryer, and Regina Robinson.

Also Present: Superintendent of Parks and Facilities John Robinson, Deputy Clerk Gina Marcotte, Director of Planning & Zoning Melissa King, and Village Manager Carmen Maurella.

Members Absent: Russ Knaack.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda.

Village Manager Carmen Maurella requested that 7c be discussed with item 7a.

5. Public Comment.

Resident Jeff Peterson spoke regarding Evelyn's Gate North Park. Mr. Peterson is on the HOA Board and attended the March 21, 2022 meeting. At that time, he had questions/issues regarding Evelyn's Gate North Park and wanted to know the process for having his issues addressed. Co-Chair Reynders stated that the Superintendent of Parks and Facilities John Robinson is aware of the issues and has a list of the damages at each park. They currently are looking at which issues need to take priority, but are working on getting everything done.

6. Reports from Co-Chairs.

No Report from Co-Chair La Ha.

Co-Chair Reynders informed everyone that they still need volunteers for the Fest. Co-Chairs Reynders gave an update regarding removing two swings and replacing them with a Volito Swing at Heritage Park.

7. Old Business

- a. Guidelines regarding usage of Heritage Park and review current sports contracts.
- b. Discuss Disc Golf agreement.

Co-Chair Reynders addressed that many residents are requesting information on the regulations regarding events and usage of the parks. One request that comes up often is disc golf and pickleball. Co-Chair Reynders discussed the need for more cohesive policies and procedures regarding events and sports teams' usage of the parks. She stated that they are currently getting requests to add an additional pickleball court. It was also stated that there have been issues regarding soccer in the park and it is interfering with disc golf.

Superintendent of Parks and Facilities John Robinson noted that the soccer fields do not cross the area disc golf is played and therefore should not be creating an issue. Co-Chair Reynders also mentioned that Thor Batchelor is under the impression that there are funds in the budget to add additional disc golf courses at Heritage Park. Superintendent of Parks and Facilities John Robinson stated he is not aware of that and Co-Chair Reynders stated she emailed Finance Director John Sawyers and has not heard back from him yet to confirm this information.

Village Manager Carmen Maurella discussed the importance of coming up with policies and procedures for the parks now that there are sports facilities using them. Having guidelines and rules to follow will make the process easier for everyone involved.

Village Manager Maurella also stated that he has reached out to the sports groups that will be using the park to find out what their needs and expectations will be. He would like for the Parks and Recreation to review all of these details and give some guidance on what the next steps should be before taking it to the Board.

Member Dan Kenney stated that pickleball was supposed to be first come first serve to the residents and disc golf was only going to be a temporary because the park had not been completed yet. It was never intended to be a permanent fixture of the park.

Co-Chair Reynders also discussed the request from residents wanting to use the soccer, football and other fields when they are not in use by the sports teams.

Present from the sports clubs were Steve and Deirdre Jones, Ray Thompson, and Jennifer Malinoski. They stated that they would be willing to work with the residents around their game schedules. On a final note, it was discussed that another importance of having rules and guidelines will set the expectations as to the maintenance of the parks and who will be responsible for it.

Member Marty Pavlik suggested reaching out to other park facilities to see what their guidelines and fees are to have a comparison.

Member Edward Cryer discussed the request from residents regarding extending the hours that the lights are turned on at the park.

Co-Chair Reynders stated that could be discussed with the Board to see if they are willing to extend the hours. She also addressed the importance of having guidelines for residents using the park for their own events and what the fees and procedures should be.

c. Update on cul-de-sac road.

Co-Chair Reynders gave a brief update regarding the contract with Austin Tyler for the Heritage Park Cul-de-sac project. Austin Tyler is currently storing equipment for the Village and the Village is asking for that equipment back to be stored in the village facility. Co-Chair Reynders discussed the grant for the project and stated that the grant was done wrong. She is requesting that they cancel the current grant and start over. It has been over a year and we still have not been able to fulfill the requirements to receive the grant that was originally proposed for the cul-de-sac project. Co-Chair Reynders stated that they are currently re-evaluating the parking needs and will research a new grant that will meet those needs. She also discussed that the next steps would be to find a new grant and they are also looking into hiring a grant writer. They would then need to go out for bid for the project. It was also suggested discuss with the Board to do an RFP to hire an engineering firm to design the remaining part of the circle at Heritage Park. It was noted that many engineer firms also write grants. It was the consensus of the committee to cancel the current contract in place for cul-de-sac road and to start the process over.

8. New Business

a. Discuss addition of lay down swing going into Heritage Park from the Ability Awareness Committee.

Co-Chair La Ha gave a brief description of the lay down swing and the benefits it will bring to the park. The swing is for children and young adults that do not have the ability to sit upright. The Ability Awareness had funds from last year that they donated for the swing and the committee is also hoping to raise more money for the Volito Swing at the beer tent at Homer Fest.

b. Phase II Heroes Trail West Extension

Director of Planning and Zoning gave an update regarding the Heroes Trail West Extension. Senior Project Manager/ Municipal Lead Transportation & Municipal

Engineering Kurt Corrigan from V3 was also in attendance and gave an update regarding funding for the project.

The Village continues to seek expansion of the Village's Heroes Trail system. One such trail extension would expand the western limits of the Heroes Trail to Coachman Lane, in the Saddlebrook Subdivision. The potential extension of the Heroes Trail would allow residents to access Heritage Park, from the recently completed trail connection to Coachman Lane.

The Village completed the Phase I design study (completed by V3). However, the Phase II design study will need to be completed. The Village obtained a proposal from V3 Engineering, for the preparation of the Phase II design study for the proposed west extension to the Heroes Trail.

To pay for the proposed trail extension, the Village would seek to obtain grant funding, such as CMAQ or ITEP funding. V3 Engineering is included as an approved engineering firm list, for As-Needed Engineering Services. The proposed cost by V3 Engineering, to complete the Phase I study is \$69,833.73.

Member Kman motioned to recommend approval of a Proposal from V3 for Engineering Services to Prepare a Phase II Engineering Study for the West Extension of the Heroes Trail, in the amount of \$69,833.73. Co-Chair La Ha seconded. Roll call was taken:

La Ha – Yes
Reynders – Yes
Pavlik – Yes
Kenney – Yes
Kman – Yes
Janssen – Yes
Cryer– Yes
Robinson– Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Open Space Parcel Dedication for Villas of Old Oak. (Written by Director of Planning & Zoning Melissa King)

Director of Planning and Zoning gave an update regarding the open space parcel dedication for Villas of Old Oak.

One of the items still open for discussion is whether or not the Village Board was open to accepting the dedication of the open space parcel proposed as part of the Villas of Old Oak PUD. Staff is looking for direction from the Parks Committee, the Environment Committee and the Board, as this is the first subdivision that was approved under the Conservation Subdivision Ordinance (CSO), the Village has never been in a position to take on an open space parcel.

Village Manager Maurella added, this property is beautiful, very scenic and beneficial to the Village. There will be minor upkeep with a property like this and so the Village has to understand that maintenance costs will be affiliated with accepting this parcel. Co-Chair Reynders asked if there could be a bench or other similar item or would the site just be for trees? Staff indicated that the Village code states that property like these can be developed consistent with the goals of the Parks Master Plan and the Open Space code section of the CSO.

Staff also reminded the Committee that this parcel was preserved to offset the development/density and we should make sure that the land is protected from intense development. Maybe only passive development is could be allowed or nothing at all. These details should be worked out in the conservation language, (if they differ from the code allowances).

Staff indicated there is access to the property off of 143rd Street and that staff is working directly with Will County DOT to make sure that access is maintained as part of the 143rd Street widening.

Co-Chair LaHa likes this opportunity with regard to the preservation of open space and feels it is in line with residents that have spoken out about preserving land in the Village. She indicated the cost of maintenance is really well worth it.

Co-Chair Reynders likes that the development limits the number of trees being removed; likes the balance.

Member Janssen remembers there was discussion when this development came through during the approval process that they could have the builder maintain the land and turn it over to the HOA. What is the advantage of us owning versus the HOA?

Staff clarified that the land will remain preserved regardless of who owns, as a conservation easement is required either way.

Co-Chair Reynders indicated that the Board was in support of this preservation area.

Village Manager Maurella indicated there will be an SSA established on this property so that if the HOA is in default, the Village would be able to step in and manage the land.

Member Cryer asked if the easement would still be in place after the widening, staff indicated yes.

Member Janssen asked again what is the advantage?

Staff indicated some if the advantage is the perception of the Village being a steward/in control of the open space. There is also a reality that the Village will be more likely to actively maintain and will be held to a higher standard. This is consistent with our goals. Access for the public is an option if the Village takes the land.

Co-Chair LaHa indicated she does like the idea of this parcel being managed by the HOA, built into HOA fees.

Member Kenney indicated that the other advantage is if the HOA is in control they will maintain. It is likely that even with a Management Plan in place the HOA will likely not actively maintain unless the Village steps in and forces. "if a tree falls, will they hear it". (staff addition to this, very likely this would just become a code enforcement issue). He also indicated that to Carmen's point on perception, we talk about supporting open space, but we don't own any

Liability of trees falling outside of the property should be worked.

Member Kenney motioned to Recommend Acceptance of the Dedication of the Villas of Old Oak Planned Development Open Space Outlot "D" to the Village as part of the Final Plat Approval. Member Kman seconded. Roll call was taken:

La Ha – No
Reynders – Yes
Pavlik – Yes
Kenney – Yes
Kman – Yes
Janssen – Yes
Cryer– Yes
Robinson– Yes

The motion passed 7-1.

d. Veteran's Day Celebration at Village Hall.

Co-Chair Reynders stated that the Board approved the Veteran's Memorial and they would like to hold all future events at Heritage Park. The Veteran's Day celebration will be held on November 6th at Village Hall. The celebration will include a dedication of a parcel of the park as a permanent home of a future Veteran's Memorial. The event will include food and music.

e. Cares Act Money for Parks.

Co-Chair Reynders thanked Mike Fricilone who informed her and Village Manager Maurella that there is Cares money being dedicated to parks in the county. They will be applying for as much as the grant will allow as soon as the paperwork becomes available.

f. Will County Well & Pump Co., Inc. Invoice.

Village Manager Maurella gave an update regarding the well & pump at the sports complex. The Sports Complex well pump for water to sprinkle the baseball and football fields was looked at and deemed inoperable. Village Manager Maurella has been working with the Homer Stallions organization that uses the fields on how to fix the issue.

Superintendent of Parks and Facilities John Robinson stated he received two quotes. Will County Well & Pump Company was the cheapest of the two. As the hot weather is approaching it is recommended to move forward in replacing the well to irrigate the baseball and football fields.

Member Kman motioned to Approval of a Proposal from Will County Well & Pump Co., Inc. in the amount of \$17, 415.80. Member Kenney seconded. Roll call was taken:

La Ha – Yes

Reynders – Yes

Pavlik – Yes

Kenney – Yes

Kman – Yes

Janssen – Yes

Cryer– Yes

Robinson– Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Reports and Communications from Staff.

a. Parks and Facilities Superintendent Update.

Superintendent Robinson reported that his department did not obtain the additional personnel, equipment, or vehicle that they needed and for that reason they are behind schedule. The grass is not growing as much due to lack of rain, but they are still behind with the work needed to be done.

Superintendent Robinson informed everyone that he met with Village Manager Maurella and turned in his letter of resignation and his last day with the Village will be July 1st. He stated that he has had a wonderful time working with everyone and working on the different projects. He thanked everyone and stated he will miss working with the committee. Co-Chair Reynders and members of the committee thanked Superintendent Robinson for all of his hard work and dedication. He will be greatly missed by everyone.

10. Committee Member Updates

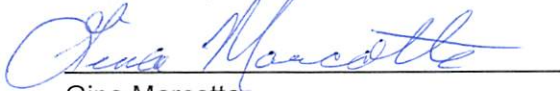
- a. Member Kman requested the next meeting be held at Heritage Park. Everyone agreed.
- b. Member Kenney stated he is working on Movie in the Park and they will be putting a poll on social media for the residents to decide what movie they would like to view. Member Kenney also stated that he met with Batman and will be having the Bat Mobile at the Trunk or Treat event.
- c. Co-Chair Reynders stated that the Vintage Rustic Fair will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2022. She noted that even though the last fair was rained out it did very well with over 800 attendees.
- d. Member Knaack (by email) I just want to relay that the new soccer league at Heritage Park has gone very well, especially for a first season. I believe this weekend concludes the spring season. I know Steve has plans to build on what

he has started, so I hope he has the full support of our committee. He is doing a great service for the families of Homer Glen.

11. Adjournment.

Member Kman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Member Cryer. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Gina Marcotte
Deputy Clerk