

**Minutes**  
**Village of Homer Glen**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, January 5, 2016 7:00 p.m.**  
**Village Board Room**  
**14917 S. Founders Crossing, Homer Glen IL**

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**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Sharon Sweas called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**3. Roll Call; Establish Quorum**

Present: Nancy Carlson, K. Kudla, Randy Juras, , Margaret Sabo, Sharon Sweas, Joe Turrise, Gary White, Larry Witsoe, and Sue Steilen (Staff Liaison).

Absent: Bob Moses, and Cynthia Rataj

Advisor: Cathy Rehr

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

Added item 8e. Stargazing.

**5. Approval of Minutes From Previous Meetings**

**Motion** made by Kathy Kudla:

To approve the minutes of the August 4, 2015 meeting.

Second by Margaret Sabo.

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

**Motion** made by Kathy Kudla:

To approve the minutes of the December 1, 2015 meeting.

Second by Joe Turrise.

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

**Motion** made by Margaret Sabo:

To approve the minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting.

Second by Randy Juras.

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

**6. Public Comment (Limit to 3 minutes)**

Judy Orban, resident, commented that she would like the Village to have a household hazardous waste collection event. She found only two places that accept fluorescent tubes and they were far away. She is interested in more frequent household hazardous waste and other recycling events such as paper shredding. She likes the tree program.

**7. Announcements/Committee Member Communication**

- Each member received a binder with the current Tree, Outdoor Lighting, and Conservation Design ordinances included. These are to be used to make notes as desired. Members were also encouraged to bring binders to each meeting.

- Josh Barrett of Solarshift will not be ready for a Village Board workshop in January. Committee members will be notified when his presentation will be made at a future Board workshop.
- Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is offering a seminar with guest speaker, Ms. Erika Holt,. She will discuss how to save money on utility bills.
- The Conservation Foundation is holding a DuPage Environmental Summit: Making Conservation Meaningful Where You Live. The event will take place Thursday, January 21, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the NIU Naperville Campus. The event is free and open to the public.
- Sue Steilen will attend the Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group Meeting hosted by the Energy Resources Center at the University of Illinois-Chicago and The Chicago Region Trees Initiative on January 19, 2016.
- Sue Steilen will also be attending the Link and Leverage forum coordinated by the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus on January 21, 2016.

## 8. Old Business

### a. Big Tree Contest

Margaret Sabo introduced the idea of creating a Big Tree contest. The contest would help identify the biggest trees in the Homer Glen area. Ms. Sabo felt that the nominations should not be limited to the Village boundaries. It could include Homer Township and nearby surrounding areas. The contest would involve:

- Creating publicity materials/news releases
- Creating an application
- Reviewing applications
- Verifying the measurements of the trees for the top applications
- Contacting nominees for access to property
- Designing and ordering award certificates
- Planning an award presentation
- An award presentation
- Photos
- Press releases announcing the winners.

There did not appear to be enough time to do all of the above tasks to announce a winner of the contest at the Earth Day-Arbor Day event. It was suggested that the contest could be announced at the Earth Day-Arbor Day event, and awards could be presented in conjunction with the Community and Nature in Harmony awards. At Earth Day-Arbor Day, a display table could be set up with application/nomination forms available. The photo of Margaret Sabo and Mike Salamowicz reaching around a large tree could also be used in the display. Someone could man the table to answer questions. Cathy Rehr volunteered to help with the display. Volunteers are needed for the other tasks.

### b. Tree Ordinance, Village Parkway Tree Program

Sue Steilen reported that more than 300 public parkway trees had been removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer in 2015, while only 123 had been replaced. Currently, the Village has only been planting one tree per parcel even if more than one tree has been removed. Since the replacement rate is low in comparison to the number of trees removed, the Village may want to consider allowing more than one replacement tree per parcel if an additional tree can fit.

The Tree-subcommittee has not met since last spring. A meeting will be scheduled for next week to review the tree ordinance. Margaret Sabo will send a redlined copy with notes for proposed changes to Randy Juras, Cynthia Rataj, Joe Turrise, and Kathy Kudla. After the subcommittee has finished their review, a meeting will be scheduled with Mike Schwarz for his comments and suggestions.

**c. Earth Day – Arbor Day Update**

Invitations to participants have been emailed. Sponsorship letters were mailed to all previous sponsors. Margaret Sabo will follow up with John Basille, Big Run Wolf Ranch. She will also check with Dale Butalla to see if he will be updating the website. Cathy Rehr and Sue Steilen will contact each other to discuss setting up the event Facebook page. An Earth Day-Arbor Day subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20.

**d. Lighting**

The lighting subcommittee members (Randy Juras, Cynthia Rataj, Joe Turrise and Margaret Sabo) will meet on January 25, at 1:00 p.m., to tweak the ordinance for a few things that had inadvertently been left out of the revised ordinance.

**e. Stargazing**

In 2015, Stargazing events were held in July and October. The October night was cancelled due to weather and cloud cover. It was suggested to try and move the fall stargazing event up to September or earlier in October. Margaret Sabo will talk to the astronomy groups.

**9. New Business**

**a. Village Recycling 2016**

The need for recycling events was discussed. A household hazardous waste collection event is costly. In the past, plans were made to have one every other year. The last hazardous waste event was held in 2014, so 2016 would be the scheduled year to have such an event. There is also a strong need for electronic recycling options. Paper shredding events are also appreciated. The committee members were encouraged to seek information for such events hosted by other communities and entities. Sue Steilen will research options and costs for holding each type of recycling event. An event is to be scheduled for September or October. Dates are to be determined. To provide residents with the most available options, event dates should not conflict or compete with other recycling/shredding events in the surrounding area.

**b. Tree City USA – 2016 – Growth Award**

The Village has received a Tree City USA Growth Award for 2013 and 2014. No new tree projects occurred in the past year, so the Village did not meet any growth award qualifications for 2015. Sue Steilen will email committee members the link to the Arbor Day Foundation website for the Tree City USA Growth Award qualifications, so the committee can look at ideas for 2016.

Margaret Sabo received ideas from Ellen Eleder for the development of a park at the new Village park site, formerly known as Woodbine. Ms. Sabo shared the ideas with the committee and will give them to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Joe Turrise suggested that any plans for the new Village Hall and/or park property could make a nice exhibit at Earth Day-Arbor Day.

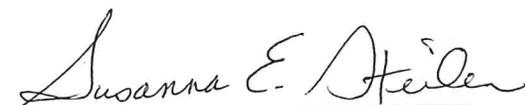
Larry Witsoe would like to hear about progress being made for the completion of the IDA sign for the Village and wildlife crossings. There was nothing to report for this meeting.

**10. Adjournment**

Larry Witsoe made a motion to adjourn. Second was made by Joe Turrise.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Steilen

