

Minutes
Village of Homer Glen
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, February 29, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
Village Board Room, 14917 S. Founders Crossing

A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Co-Chairperson Christina Neitzke-Troiike.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call; Establish Quorum

Present: Co-Chairpersons Christina Neitzke-Troiike and Members Dale Janssen, Cassandra Courtright, Ed Cryer, Bob Kman, Russ Knaack, Marty Oster, Regina Robinson, Kyle Sanders, and Jerry Young. Absent: Co-Chairperson Sharon Sweas. Present on behalf of Village of Homer Glen staff: Administrative Analyst, Sean Keane. Also present on behalf of the Homer Glen Foundation: Laurel Ward and Kathy Young.

D. Approval of Amendments to Agenda

Co-Chairperson Neitzke-Troiike made a motion to move Item I1, "Discussion with Members of the Homer Glen Foundation Regarding Parks and Recreation Donations" to after Item E, "Approval of Minutes- January 25, 2016;" seconded by Member Oster. All Aye. *Motion Passed.*

E. Approval of Minutes

Members Oster and Cryer stated that the minutes should state that they were both present at the meeting.

Member Kman made a motion to approve the Committee's minutes of January 25, 2016; seconded by Member Young. All Aye. *Motion Passed.*

F. New Business

1. Discussion with Members of the Homer Glen Foundation Regarding Parks and Recreation Donations

Laurel Ward and Kathy Young were both present at the Committee Meeting on behalf of the Homer Glen Foundation.

Co-Chairperson Neitzke-Troiike explained that she has received inquiries as to how individuals or businesses can donate to specific parks and recreation projects. The Committee cannot accept donations because it does not have 501(c)3 status and therefore donations would not be tax-deductible. The Committee has been discussing a potential donation program for several months.

Ms. Ward provided a brief background of the Homer Glen foundation and why it was established. She stated that one of the original intentions of the Foundation was to accept donations for parks and recreation initiatives.

Member Cryer asked if the Foundation has done any matching grants in the past. Ms. Ward stated that the Foundation did provide a matching grant for the Erin Hills Park that was funded through an OSLAD grant, as well as the Township's Sendra Park.

Member Cryer asked how long it took for the Foundation to obtain 501(c)3 status. Ms. Ward stated that it took two years for the Foundation to obtain the status, however, in recent years, it has taken much longer.

Co-Chairperson Neitzke-Troiike asked if the funds raised through a donation program would go to a general fund in the Foundation or if it would be designated to Parks and Recreation. Ms. Ward stated that the money would be allocated to a fund that would be restricted to the Village's Parks and Recreation initiatives. Furthermore, funds could be allocated to a specific initiative (example: Goodings Grove Park). The Foundation would not have access to these funds without authorization from the Village.

Ms. Ward stated that the Foundation does not have any paid staff and is 100% volunteer-based.

Member Kman asked if the Foundation could accept donations from businesses and other groups. Ms. Ward stated that the Foundation could accept donations from businesses and that, in the past, many businesses have done matching grant programs.

Ms. Ward stated that the Foundation has several projects that they are interested in partnering with the Village on. The Foundation has long sought to fund a Veteran's Memorial in Homer Glen but have yet to find a suitable

location. Ms. Young provided the Committee with pictures from a Veteran's Memorial in Lagrange Park.

Co-Chairperson Neitzke-Troiike stated that the Homer Founders Club is interested in funding a Veteran's Memorial and the Foundation could potentially partner with this organization for the project. As the Village moves forward with the park planning process, the Homer Foundation would like to continue discussing this potential project.

Co-Chairperson Neitzke-Troiike stated that the Village is in the process of hiring a park planner consultant for the creation of a master park development plan for the village hall park. Five firms have been selected for an interview and three firms will ultimately present to the Village Board at the March 9 meeting during the workshop portion.

The second project that the Foundation is interested in partnering with the Village on is signage for the Heroes Trail. This signage would include mile markers as well as signs that would break the trail network into different "segments", with each segment named after a branch of the military or other heroes. The Foundation has met with first responders and they support this project. Ms. Ward provided the Committee with examples of what the signs could look like.

Member Janssen asked how the trail network would be broken up into segments. Ms. Ward and Ms. Young stated that the Foundation would like to meet with Village staff to discuss how the trail network would be broken up.

Co-Chairperson Neitzke-Troiike discussed the possibility of creating a Fundraising sub-committee. The Committee will discuss this idea further at the March meeting under, "Old Business".

G. Chairpersons Report

Co-Chairperson Neitzke-Troiike updated the Committee on the Park Planner Consultant interview process. The five firms selected for interviews are: Hitchcock Design Group, Planning Resources, Inc., Conservation Design Forum, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., and WRD Environmental, Inc.

Member Robinson asked what questions are being asked in the interviews. Co-Chairperson Neitzke-Troiike stated that the interviews are focused on the

firm's qualifications, their vision for the park, and how public input would be solicited. Furthermore, the firms have done extensive research on the Homer Glen community and the park site itself.

H. Village Staff Report- Specific Parks and Recreation Project Updates

1. Erin Hills Park Rules Sign

- Staff Liaison Keane updated the Committee on the Erin Hills Park rules signage. An image of the park rules sign was given to the Committee. Two signs were ordered and will be installed in the Spring.

I. Old Business

1. Discussion Regarding Park Naming Contest and Park Name Suggestions

- Member Young stated that Homer Junior High sent their top three names selected by the teachers. The names are: Harmony Park, Veteran's Park, and Olivieri Freedom Park. Oak Prairie Junior High submitted eight names to the Committee. The Committee will email Staff Liaison Keane their top three choices from the eight names from Oak Prairie.
- The names submitted by residents through the form on the website were also distributed to the Committee.
- The Committee will ultimately recommend three names to the Village Board. Discussion will take place at the next Committee meeting on Monday, March 28. Ultimately, three names will be recommended to the Village Board to be voted on at the April 13 meeting.

Member Robinson spoke to the Committee about the former volunteer fire house located on 143rd Street, east of Lemont road, on the south side of the street. Member Robinson requested that a portion of the remaining wall be relocated to the future village hall park and incorporated into a memorial that would honor the spirit of volunteerism that helped establish the Homer Glen community. The Committee was in agreement to have Member Robinson speak to the Homer Township Fire Protection District regarding this potential project.

Member Kman spoke to the Committee about the possibility of incorporating disc golf into the village hall park. Trustee Rodgers got a cost estimate for the equipment. The Committee discussed the possibility of going on site visits to other parks that have disc golf equipment.

J. Public Comment

Eileen Crement spoke to the Committee regarding the vandalism and disrepair at Erin Hills Park. The outlook deck was vandalized and the posts were kicked in and are lying on the ground. Ms. Crement also spoke about the walking / running path, stating that the path needs to be sealed or repaved. Ms. Crement provided photos of the vandalism and disrepair to the Committee. She stated that there are many portions of the path that have holes and are in poor condition. Furthermore, Ms. Crement requested that a second bench be placed on the Erin Hills Park outlook deck.

K. Adjournment

Member Knaack made a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting, seconded by member Kman, all Aye. *Motion passed.* Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sean Keane