

Minutes  
Village of Homer Glen  
**JOINT PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**AND**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Monday, June 27, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.  
Village Board Room, 14917 S. Founders Crossing

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**A. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Co-Chairperson Sharon Sweas.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Roll Call; Establish Quorum**

Present from the Parks and Recreation Committee: Co-Chairpersons Christina Neitzke-Troiike and Sharon Sweas and Committee members Dale Janssen, Cassandra Courtright, Ed Cryer, Bob Kman, Russ Knaack, Regina Robinson, Kyle Sanders, and John Walters. Absent: Marty Oster. Present from the Environment Committee: Chairperson Sharon Sweas and Committee members Randy Juras, Bob Moses, Cynthia Rataj, Joe Turrise, Larry Witsoe, and Gary White. Present on behalf of Village of Homer Glen staff: Village Manager Mike Mertens, Assistant Village Manager Heather Kokodynsky, Assistant Planner Caron Bricks, Community Relations Coordinator Sue Steilen, Facilities Manager John Robinson and Administrative Analyst Sean Keane. Also present from Planning Resources, Inc. were Darrell Garrison, Keven Graham, and Jennifer Graham.

**D. Approval of Amendments to Agenda**

**E. Approval of Minutes**

Member Kman made a motion to approve the Parks and Recreation Committee's minutes of May 23, 2016; seconded by Member Janssen. All Aye.  
*Motion Passed.*

**F. Chairpersons Report**

Co-Chair Sweas stated that the establishment of the Park Donation sub-committee was approved by the Village Board. Chairperson Kman of the sub-committee stated that the first meeting will take place on Monday, July 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Board Room. Chairperson Kman provided

background on the purpose of the sub-committee. The Village has no means of accepting tax-deductible park donations from individuals, businesses or non-profit organizations. Other local park districts and park departments often partner with a Park Foundation that accepts donations on their behalf for capital improvements or specific projects (i.e., picnic benches, flag poles, gazebos, etc.).

The Homer Glen Foundation, a local non-profit organization, has expressed interest in partnering with the Village of Homer Glen on a number of parks and recreation initiatives. By partnering with the Foundation, the Village could receive funding for specific parks and recreation equipment or initiatives. Individuals who donate to the Homer Glen Foundation would be able to file the donation as a tax deduction. The sub-committee will report back to the Parks and Recreation Committee with any updates.

## **G. New Business**

### **1. Introduction to Planning Heritage Park- Planning Resources, Inc.**

Darrell Garrison, Keven Graham, and Jennifer Graham of Planning Resources, Inc. introduced themselves and provided the Committees with background information on their firm and their individual roles on the project team. PRI will produce a Master Park Development Plan that is based on “plan by analysis.” Comments and input from residents and stakeholder groups will be a major component of the plan. The main public outreach tool will be MySidewalk, an online engagement site that will allow residents to comment and partake in a dialogue regarding the park development plan.

Member Knaack asked if the PRI team is considering the flooding issues in and around Heritage Park. Keven Graham stated that the team is analyzing the Regional Drainage Improvement Study performed by engineering consulting firm HR Green.

Member Turrise asked if costs are being considered in the plan. Darrell Garrison said that costs have not yet been considered because the vision of the park has not been established. Once a vision is established, costs for the parks would be considered in phases.

Member Robinson asked if PRI would be bidding out the construction of the project. PRI hopes to be chosen as the project manager responsible for bidding out the construction, however those services are not included in the project scope per the contract approved by the Village Board.

Member Sanders asked if ongoing maintenance of the park would be considered. PRI stated that maintenance of the park is considered throughout the planning process. 103 additional acres will inherently increase overall maintenance needs and in turn increase staffing needs.

Member Courtright stated that the Village's Master Park Plan was last updated in 2013 and questioned how PRI would consider this in the development plan. Keven Graham of PRI stated that this land was not included in the 2013 park plan and therefore, the dynamic of the Village's Parks and Recreation facilities has drastically changed. Member Knaack stated that the master plan does include a needs assessment for the community and concurred that the Master Plan should be considered throughout the planning process for Heritage Park.

Member Knaack asked if there was a timeline established for the project. Keven Graham stated that the master park development plan would be completed by October.

Member Kman asked if the plan would consider the liability of certain uses or park features. Keven Graham stated that operation needs would be considered throughout the planning process.

Member Turrise asked what the buffer will be around the perimeter of the park. Keven Graham stated that there is a wide range of opportunities and neighbors to the park should receive special consideration.

Keven Graham asked the Committees what they want to see in the park. Discussion occurred amongst members of both Committees regarding specific park features and other considerations including but not limited to the following:

- Flat area for annual HomerFest (Beginning in 2017)
- Natural water features (no geometric bodies of water)
- Overall cohesiveness of features (all uses might be good but some could be incorporated into other areas of the Village)
- Sledding hill
- Band shell
- Splash pad
- Bridges
- Features for senior club
- Sidewalks with solar cells
- Geothermal energy technology

- Consideration of Homer Township complex
- Pathways to nearby subdivisions
- Sidewalk along 151<sup>st</sup> Street
- Frisbee golf
- Exercise equipment along trail
- Playgrounds and equipment for young children
- Central park feature (structure or amphitheater)
- Consideration of vandalism
- Consideration of wildlife (wanted and unwanted)
- Consideration of wildflowers and other local plants
- Local history (telling a story, such as the development of the steel plow)
- Military component (Veteran's Memorial)
- Fishing component
- Volunteer fire department brick wall
- Active recreation facilities (cost-sharing)

Jennifer Graham stated that the MySidewalk public engagement tool will be marketed to the community through the bi-monthly Mayor's Blog, mailed to the immediate neighbors of the park, and placed in the electronic backpacks at community schools.

Keven Graham stated that the project is currently in the site analysis phase. The MySidewalk site is being built and stakeholder meetings will be scheduled in the near future.

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

### **1. Facility Manager's Update**

Facilities Manager John Robinson updated the Committee on vandalism at Stonebridge Park and Erin Hills Park. The tennis courts at Stonebridge were damaged. Replacement parts have been ordered.

Options for the repair of the Erin Hills outlook were also discussed. Because the outlook is less than 30 inches, no railings are required by building code.

Member Courtright asked if the Erin Hills Park trail would be resurfaced. Facilities Manager Robinson stated that staff is looking into repaving the trail, however it is not budgeted for this fiscal

year. The Village took ownership of the trail this Fiscal Year. Furthermore, sealcoating of the other trails will be performed in the fall when the trails are less busy.

2. Committee Member Updates

There were no Committee Member Updates.

I. Old Business

1. Heroes Trail Network Signage

J. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

K. Adjournment

Member Kman made a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting, seconded by member Cryer, all Aye. *Motion passed.* Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Sean Keane